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FREE 16 PAGE SECOND FEATURE
SUPERMAN & THE METAL MEN
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BYRNE & ANDRU
WITH KEITH WILLIAMS
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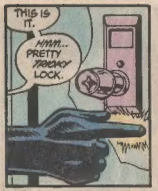

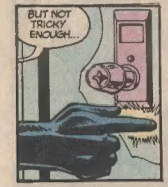

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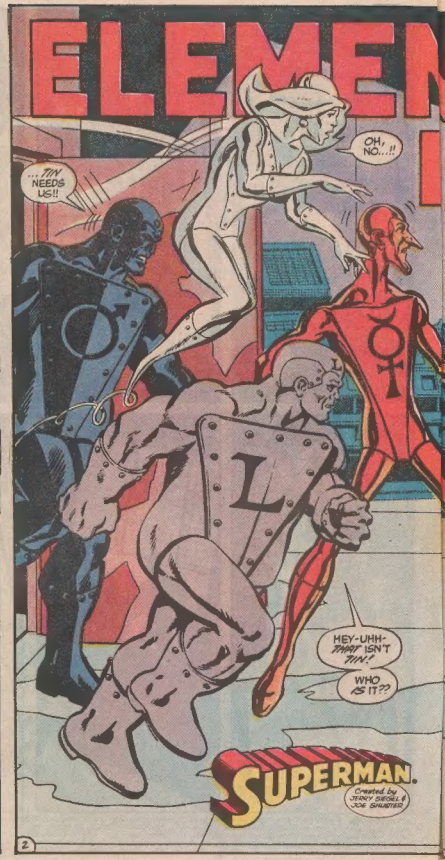

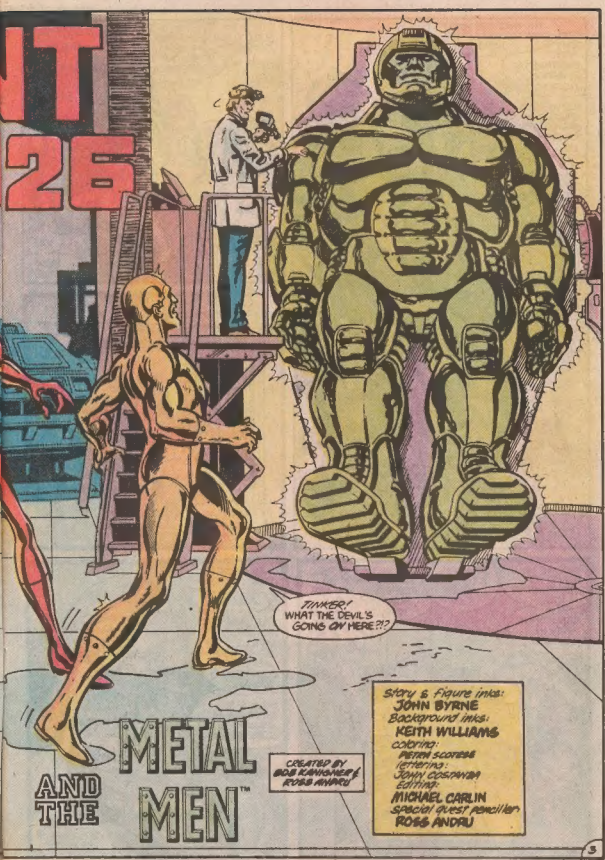

AND THE METAL MEN™

CREATED BY BOB RAINGHER & ROBB AVARO

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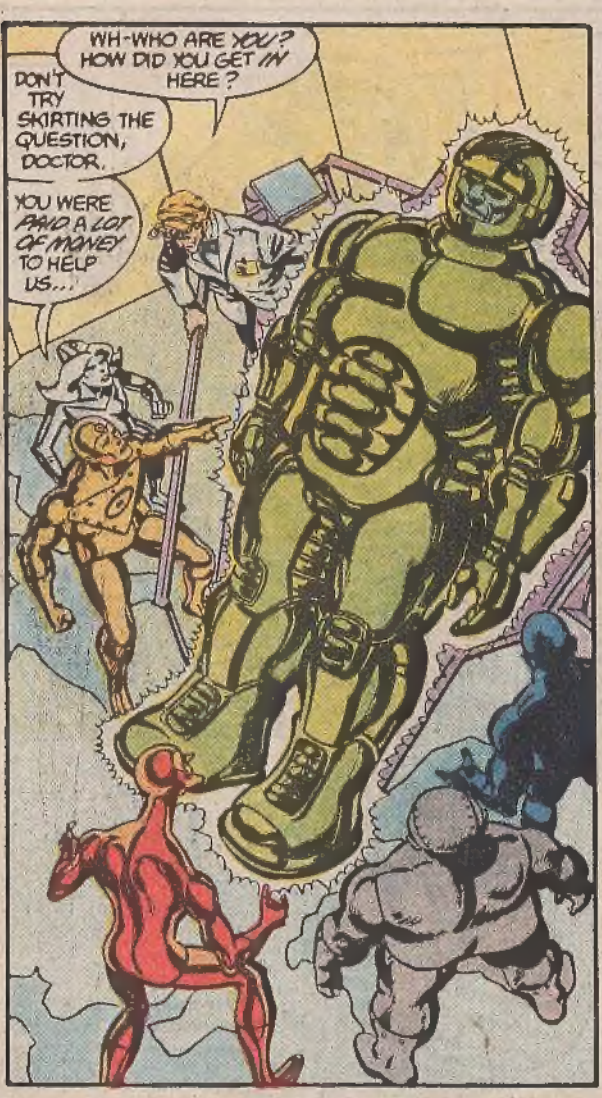
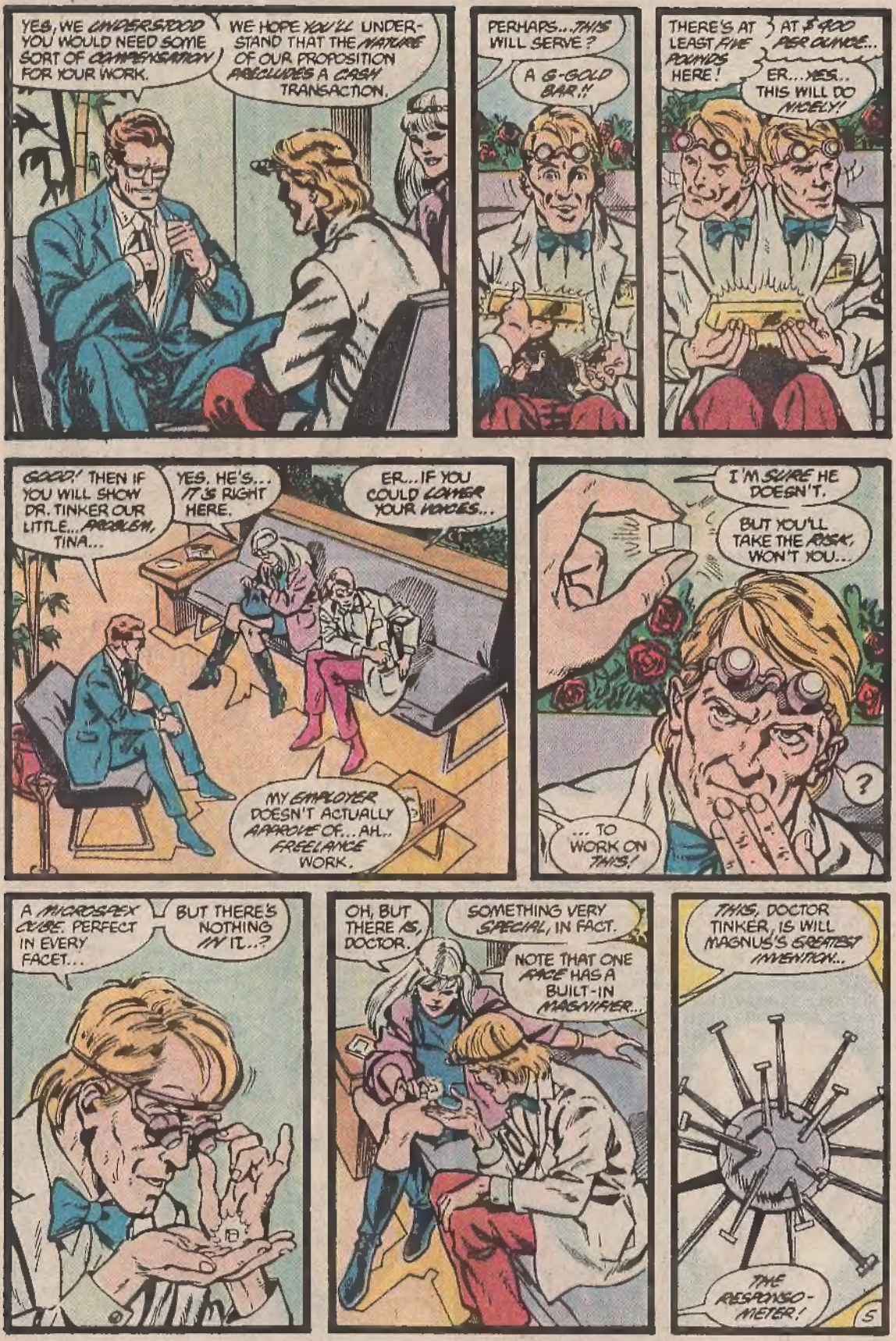

WH-WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
DON'T TRY SKIRTING THE QUESTION, DOCTOR.
YOU WERE PAID A LOT OF MONEY TO HELP US...

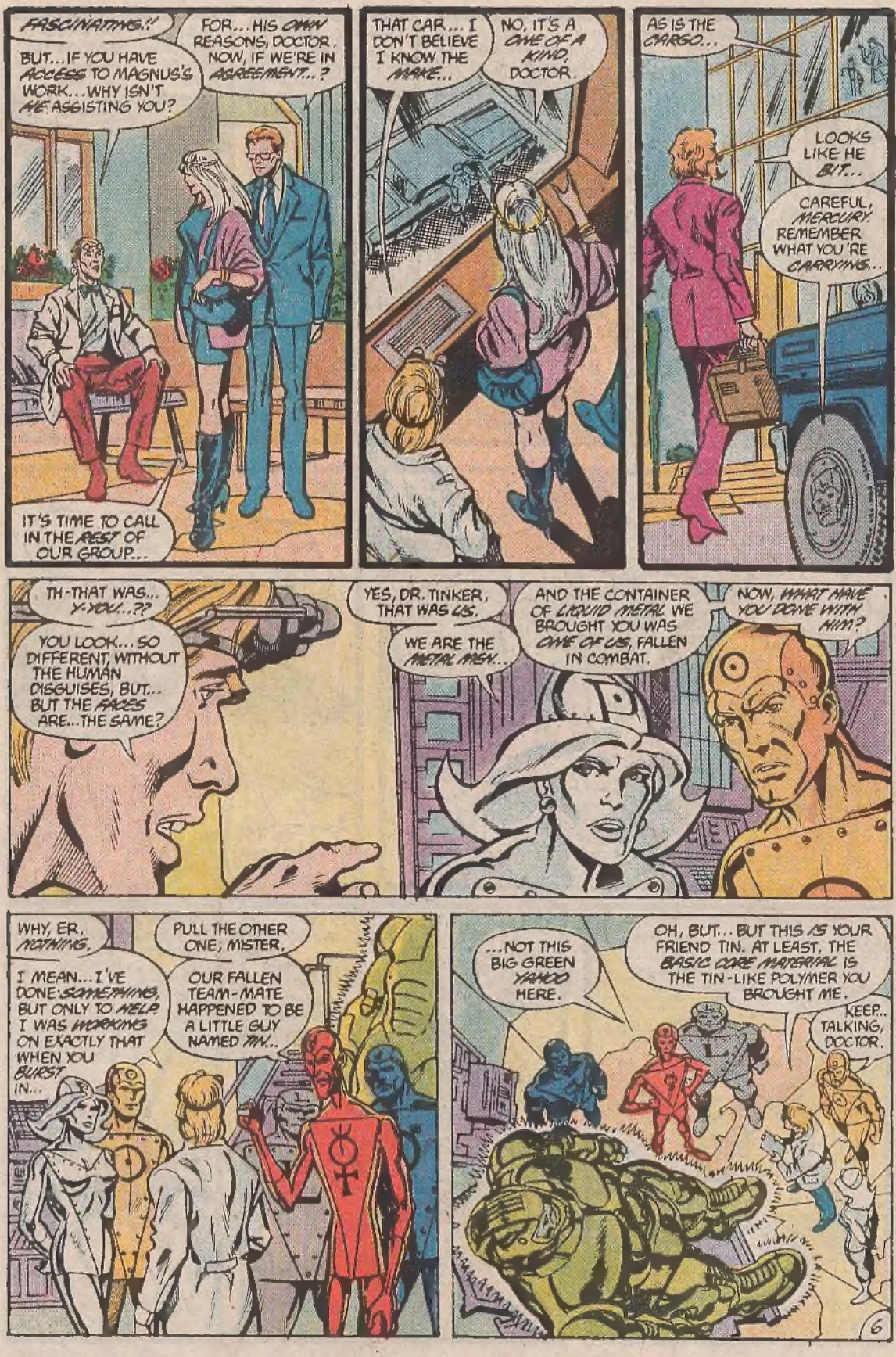
...NOT TO BUILD THIS... THINGS!!
EASY, GOLD. YOU WERE IN HUMAN DISGUISE THEN, REMEMBER?
YOU...?
YOU HIRED ME??

"...BUT...BUT I WASN'T CONTRACTED BY ROBOTS.
"IT WAS..."
MR. AYOU, MS. PEETY... PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
AS WE ARE YOU, DOCTOR TINKER.

YES. WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
YOU...AH... YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
OH, INDEED. IN THE... COMMUNITY WE REPRESENT, YOU ARE ALMOST AS WELL KNOWN...
ABOUT YOUR WORK IN ROBOTICS.

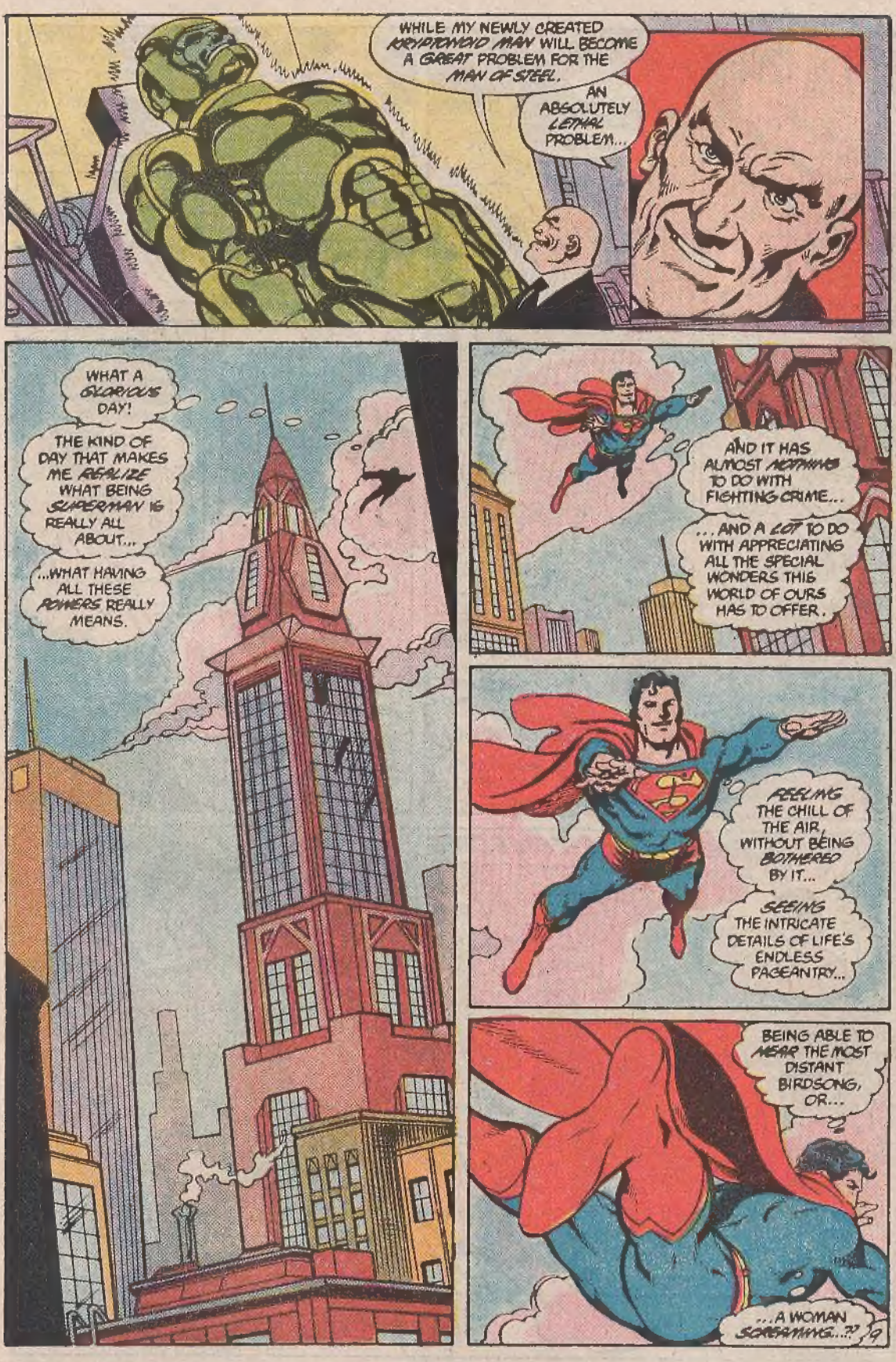
...AS DOCTOR WILL MAGNUS!
MAGNUS!
YOU...FLATTER ME, SIR. MY SMALL WORKS ARE SO VERY MODEST COMPARED TO HIS.
STILL, IF YOU THINK I CAN ASSIST YOU IN SOME FASHION...
AND, OF COURSE, IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT...?


YES, WE UNDERSTOOD YOU WOULD NEED SOME SORT OF COMPENSATION FOR YOUR WORK.
WE HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT THE NATURE OF OUR PROPOSITION PRECLUDES A CASH TRANSACTION.
PERHAPS...THIS WILL SERVE?
A G-GOLD BAR.!!
THERE'S AT LEAST FIVE POUNDS HERE!
AT $400 PER OUNCE...
ER...YES.. THIS WILL DO NICELY!
GOOD! THEN IF YOU WILL SHOW DR. TINKER OUR LITTLE...PROBLEM, TINA...
YES, HE'S... IT'S RIGHT HERE.
ER...IF YOU COULD LOWER YOUR VOICES...
MY EMPLOYER DOESN'T ACTUALLY APPROVE OF...AH.. FREELANCE WORK.
I'M SURE HE DOESN'T.
BUT YOU'LL TAKE THE RISK, WON'T YOU...
?
... TO WORK ON THIS.
A MICROSEX CUBE. PERFECT IN EVERY FACET...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN IT..?
OH, BUT THERE IS, DOCTOR.
SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL, IN FACT.
NOTE THAT ONE FACE HAS A BUILT-IN MAGNIFIER...
THIS, DOCTOR TINKER, IS WILL MAGNUS'S GREATEST INVENTION...
THE RESPONSO-METER!
5

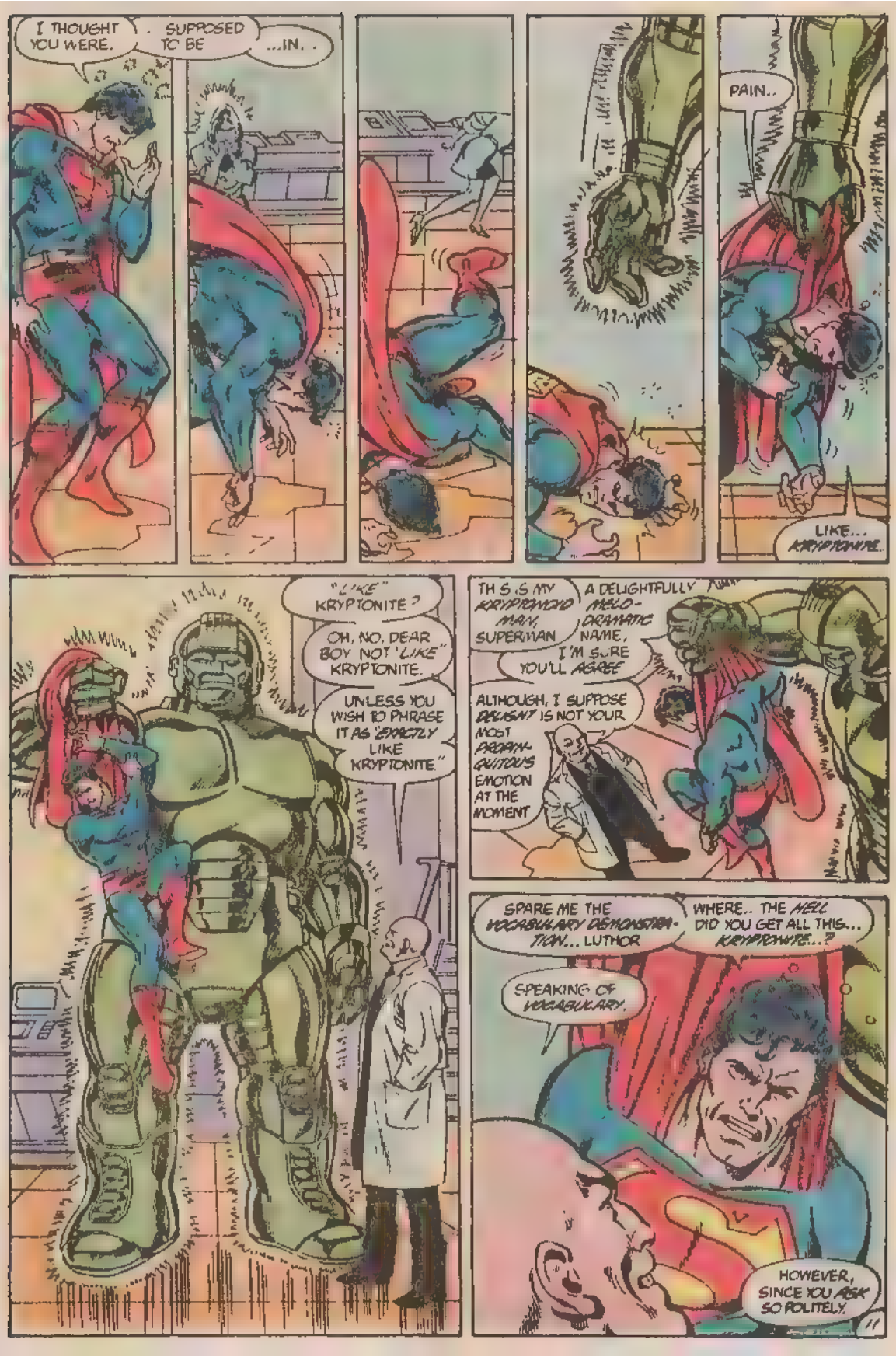

FASCINATING!!
FOR... HIS OWN REASONS, DOCTOR. NOW, IF WE'RE IN AGREEMENT...?
BUT... IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO MAGNUS'S WORK... WHY ISN'T ME ASSISTING YOU?
IT'S TIME TO CALL IN THE REST OF OUR GROUP...
THAT CAR... I DON'T BELIEVE I KNOW THE MAKE...
NO, IT'S A ONE OF A KIND, DOCTOR.
AS IS THE CARGO...
LOOKS LIKE HE BUT...
CAREFUL, MERCURY. REMEMBER WHAT YOU'RE CARRYING...
TH-THAT WAS... Y-YOU...??
YOU LOOK... SO DIFFERENT, WITHOUT THE HUMAN DISGUISES, BUT... BUT THE FACES ARE... THE SAME?
YES, DR. TINKER, THAT WAS US.
WE ARE THE METAL MEN...
AND THE CONTAINER OF LIQUID METAL WE BROUGHT YOU WAS ONE OF US, FALLEN IN COMBAT.
NOW, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM?
WHY, ER, NOTHING.
I MEAN... I'VE DONE SOMETHING, BUT ONLY TO HELP. I WAS WORKING ON EXACTLY THAT WHEN YOU BURST IN...
PULL THE OTHER ONE, MISTER.
OUR FALLEN TEAM-MATE HAPPENED TO BE A LITTLE GUY NAMED TIN...
...NOT THIS BIG GREEN YAHOO HERE.
OH, BUT... BUT THIS IS YOUR FRIEND TIN. AT LEAST, THE BASIC CORE MATERIAL IS THE TIN-LIKE POLYMER YOU BROUGHT ME.
KEEP... TALKING, DOCTOR.
6

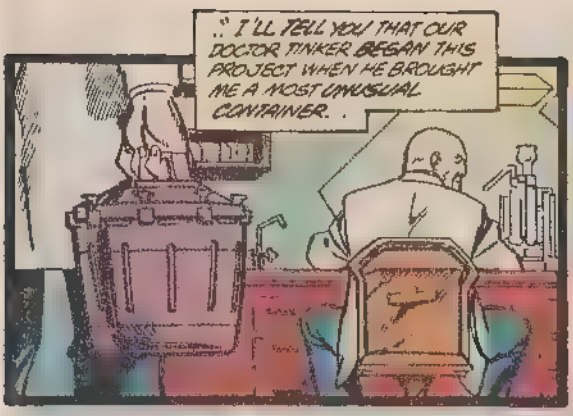
WELL, THE POLYMER SUBSTANCE WAS, OF COURSE, OF AN EXTRAORDINARILY ADVANCED COMPOUND, WHICH SEEMED TO DUPLICATE ALL THE WELL, WEAKER PROPERTIES OF TIN.
AS YOU MAY KNOW, REAL TIN IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE STRONGER METALS.
I REALIZED TO DO WHAT YOU WANTED I WOULD FIRST HAVE TO INCREASE THE INTRINSIC STRENGTH OF THE POLYMER, AND THAT WAS BEYOND MY SKILLS..
...SO I ASKED MY EMPLOYER TO HELP ME...
LUTHOR...?!?
OH, NO!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT... THAT STUPID!
TINKER, I THOUGHT WE UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER.
IF WE'D WANTED LEX LUTHOR INVOLVED IN THIS, WE WOULD HAVE APPROACHED HIM DIRECTLY..
OH, WOULD YOU INDEED, MY ROBOTIC FRIEND..?
LOOK OUT...
KEEP BEHIND LEAD AND ME, GUYS.
AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT LUTHOR'S UP TO.
UP TO?
YOU HOUND ME... IRON, IS IT?
YOU MAKE ME SOUND LIKE SOME NEFARIOUS RASCALLION. NOT AT ALL LIKE THE ADMIRED AND RESPECTED BUSINESS-MAN I AM.
NOT AT ALL LIKE THE ACCOMPLISHED SCIENTIST WHO CAN DO...
...THIS!!
7

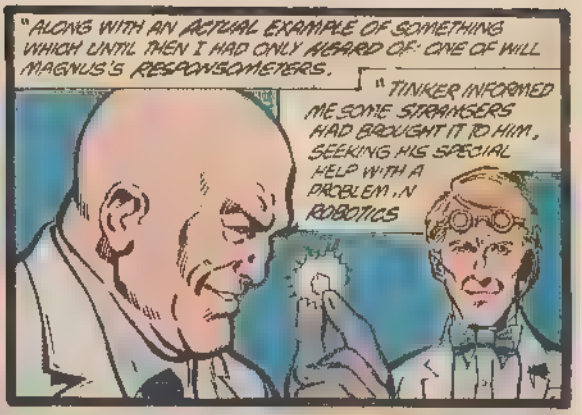
SIR...
WELL, THAT WAS EVEN MORE... EFFECTIVE THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED.
TINKER, THE COLLECTOR, IF YOU PLEASE.
PERFECT, PERFECT.
THEIR SO-CALLED RESPONSOMETERS ARE TOO SMALL TO BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE...
BUT THIS COLLECTOR PICKS THEM UP, AND INDICATES THEIR POSITIONS ON ITS SURFACE.
YOU ARE READY, TINKER?
YES, SIR.
I NEED ONLY PICK UP THE MICROSCOPIC UNITS...
AND TRANSFER THEM TO THIS SPECIALLY PREPARED CONTAINER...
AND THERE THE SOULS AND MINDS OF THE METAL MEN CAN LANGUISH...
tick
...WHILE THEIR BODIES...
...WITHOUT THE RESPONSOMETERS TO DIRECT THEM...
...SIMPLY CEASE TO BE ANY SORT OF PROBLEM...
8

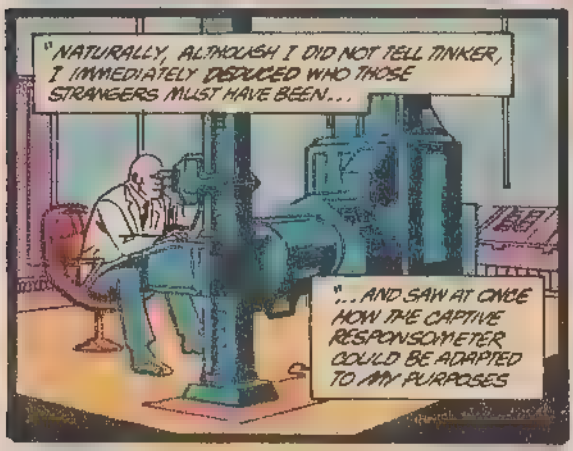

WHILE MY NEWLY CREATED KRYPTONOID MAN WILL BECOME A GREAT PROBLEM FOR THE MAN OF STEEL.
AN ABSOLUTELY LETHAL PROBLEM...
WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY!
THE KIND OF DAY THAT MAKES ME REALIZE WHAT BEING SUPERMAN IS REALLY ALL ABOUT...
...WHAT HAVING ALL THESE POWERS REALLY MEANS.
AND IT HAS ALMOST NOTHING TO DO WITH FIGHTING CRIME...
...AND A LOT TO DO WITH APPRECIATING ALL THE SPECIAL WONDERS THIS WORLD OF OURS HAS TO OFFER.
FEELING THE CHILL OF THE AIR, WITHOUT BEING BOTHERED BY IT...
SEEING THE INTRICATE DETAILS OF LIFE'S ENDLESS PAGEANTRY...
BEING ABLE TO HEAR THE MOST DISTANT BIRDSONG, OR...
...A WOMAN SCREAMING...??

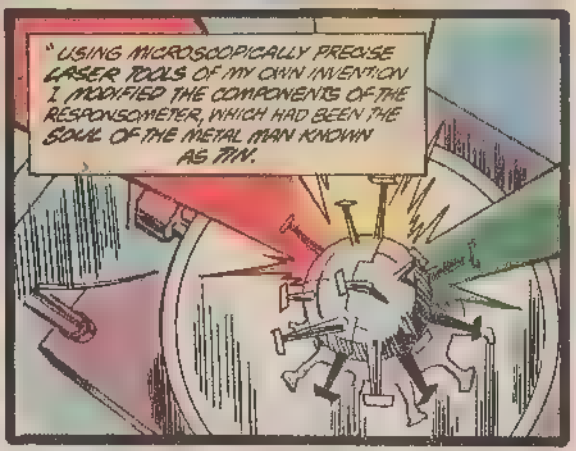
EASY ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE BY...
...BY FOCUSING MY SUPER-HEARING...
...AND TAKING A QUICK SQUINT WITH MY...
YES...
AND THE SOUND...
...IS COMING FROM...
...THE LEXCORP INDUSTRIAL PARK IN BAKERLINE...
BUT WHICH BUILDING?
BLAST!
OF COURSE, OUR FRIEND LUTHOR HAS RENDERED ALL THESE STRUCTURES OPAQUE TO MY X-RAY VISION! I SMELL A LARGE, BALD RAT...
...BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CHARGE AHEAD WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHAT I'M...
EEEEE-EEEEE-EEEEEEEEE
...GETTING INTO...?!?
EXCELLENT, MISS MARKHAM.
AS ALWAYS, YOU HAVE THE FINEST LUMENS IN LEXCORP!
WHAT IN BLAZES IS THIS, LUTHOR?

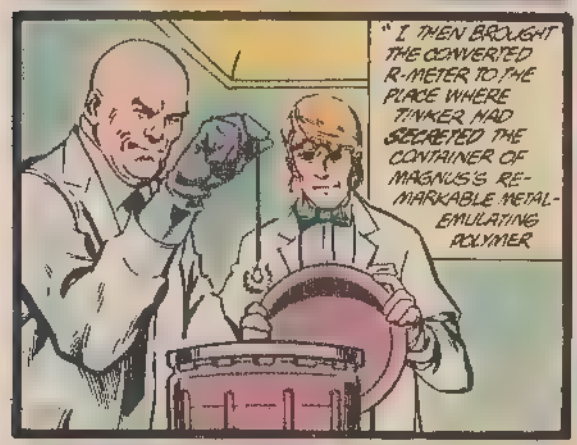

I THOUGHT YOU WERE. . SUPPOSED TO BE ...IN. .
PAIN..
LIKE... KRYPTONITE.
"LIKE" KRYPTONITE?
OH, NO, DEAR BOY NOT "LIKE" KRYPTONITE.
UNLESS YOU WISH TO PHRASE IT AS "EXACTLY LIKE KRYPTONITE."
THIS IS MY KRYPTONOID MAN, SUPERMAN
A DELIGHTFULLY MELO-DRAMATIC NAME, I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE
ALTHOUGH, I SUPPOSE DELIGHT IS NOT YOUR MOST PROPRIOCEPTIVE EMOTION AT THE MOMENT
SPARE ME THE VOCABULARY DEMONSTRATION... LUTHOR
WHERE.. THE HELL DID YOU GET ALL THIS... KRYPTONITE..?
SPEAKING OF VOCABULARY.
HOWEVER, SINCE YOU ASK SO POLITELY.

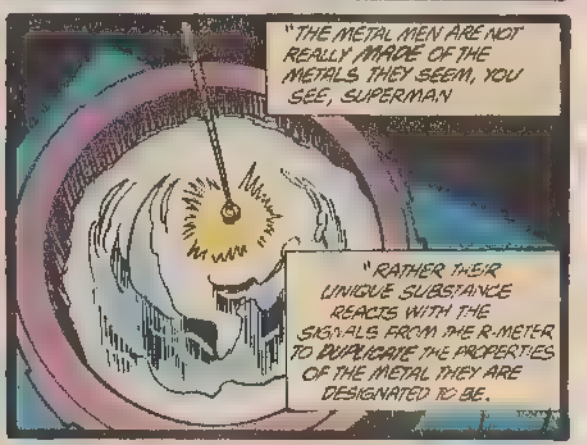

.. I'LL TELL YOU THAT OUR DOCTOR TINKER BEGAN THIS PROJECT WHEN HE BROUGHT ME A MOST UNUSUAL CONTAINER. .

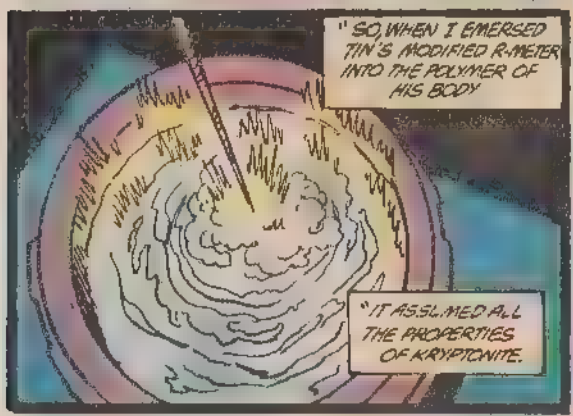

"ALONG WITH AN ACTUAL EXAMPLE OF SOMETHING WHICH UNTIL THEN I HAD ONLY HEARD OF: ONE OF WILL MAGNUS'S RESPONSOMETERS.
"TINKER INFORMED ME SOME STRANGERS HAD BROUGHT IT TO HIM, SEEKING HIS SPECIAL HELP WITH A PROBLEM IN ROBOTICS

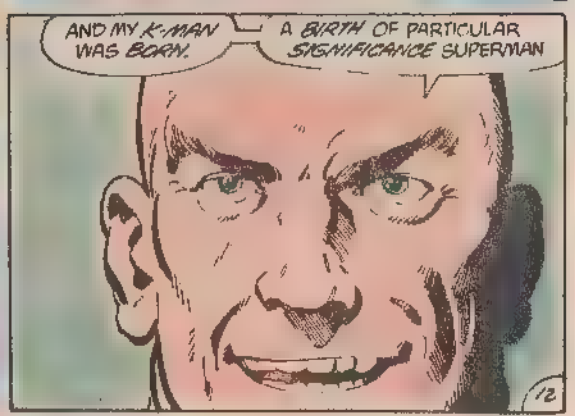

"NATURALLY, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT TELL TINKER, I IMMEDIATELY DEDUCED WHO THOSE STRANGERS MUST HAVE BEEN...
"...AND SAW AT ONCE HOW THE CAPTIVE RESPONSOMETER COULD BE ADAPTED TO MY PURPOSES


"USING MICROSCOPICALLY PRECISE LASER TOOLS OF MY OWN INVENTION I MODIFIED THE COMPONENTS OF THE RESPONSOMETER, WHICH HAD BEEN THE SOUL OF THE METAL MAN KNOWN AS TIN.


"I THEN BROUGHT THE CONVERTED R-METER TO THE PLACE WHERE TINKER HAD SECRETED THE CONTAINER OF MAGNUS'S RE-MARKABLE METAL-EMULATING POLYMER

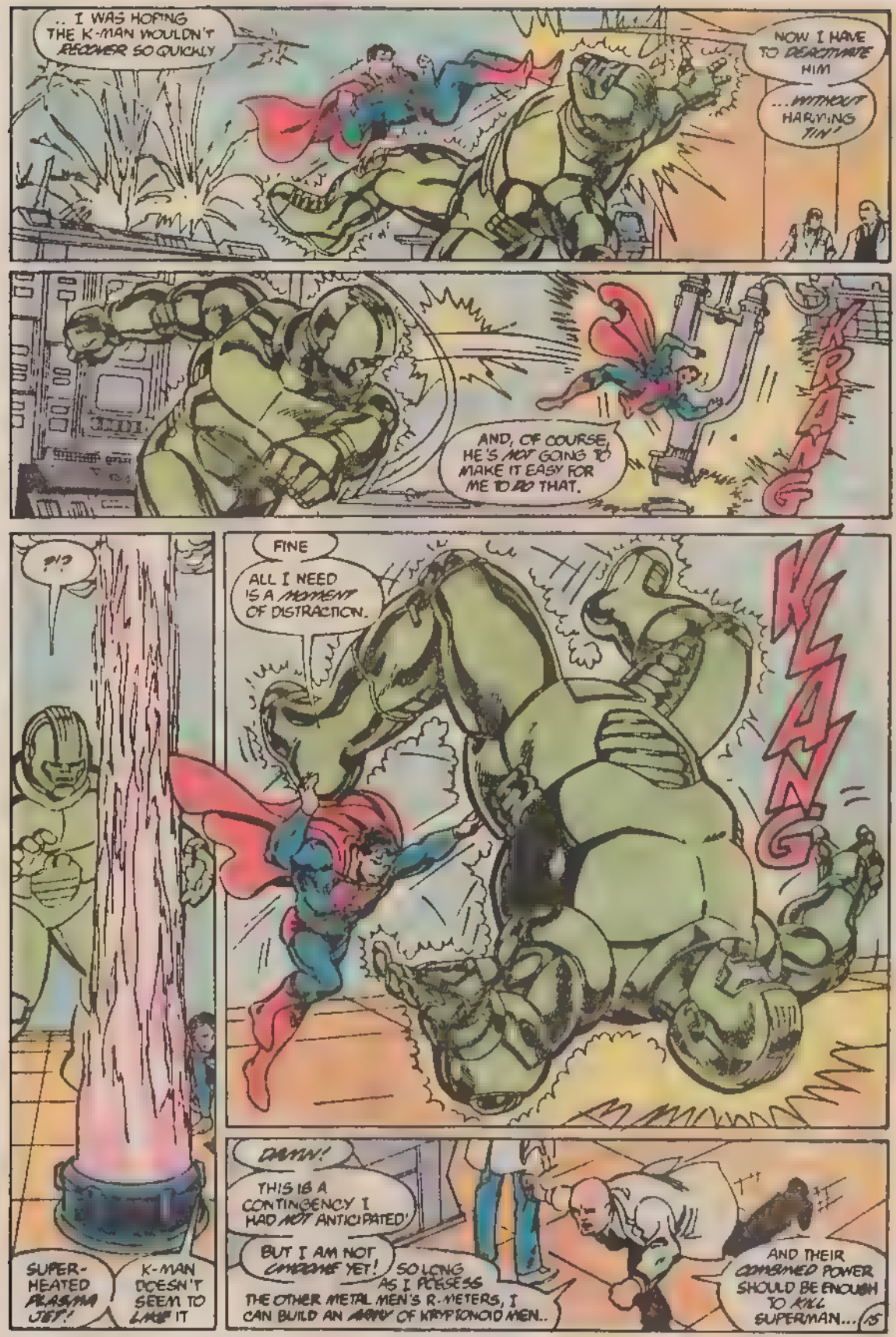

"THE METAL MEN ARE NOT REALLY MADE OF THE METALS THEY SEEM, YOU SEE, SUPERMAN
"RATHER THEIR UNIQUE SUBSTANCE REACTS WITH THE SIGNALS FROM THE R-METER TO DUPLICATE THE PROPERTIES OF THE METAL THEY ARE DESIGNATED TO BE.

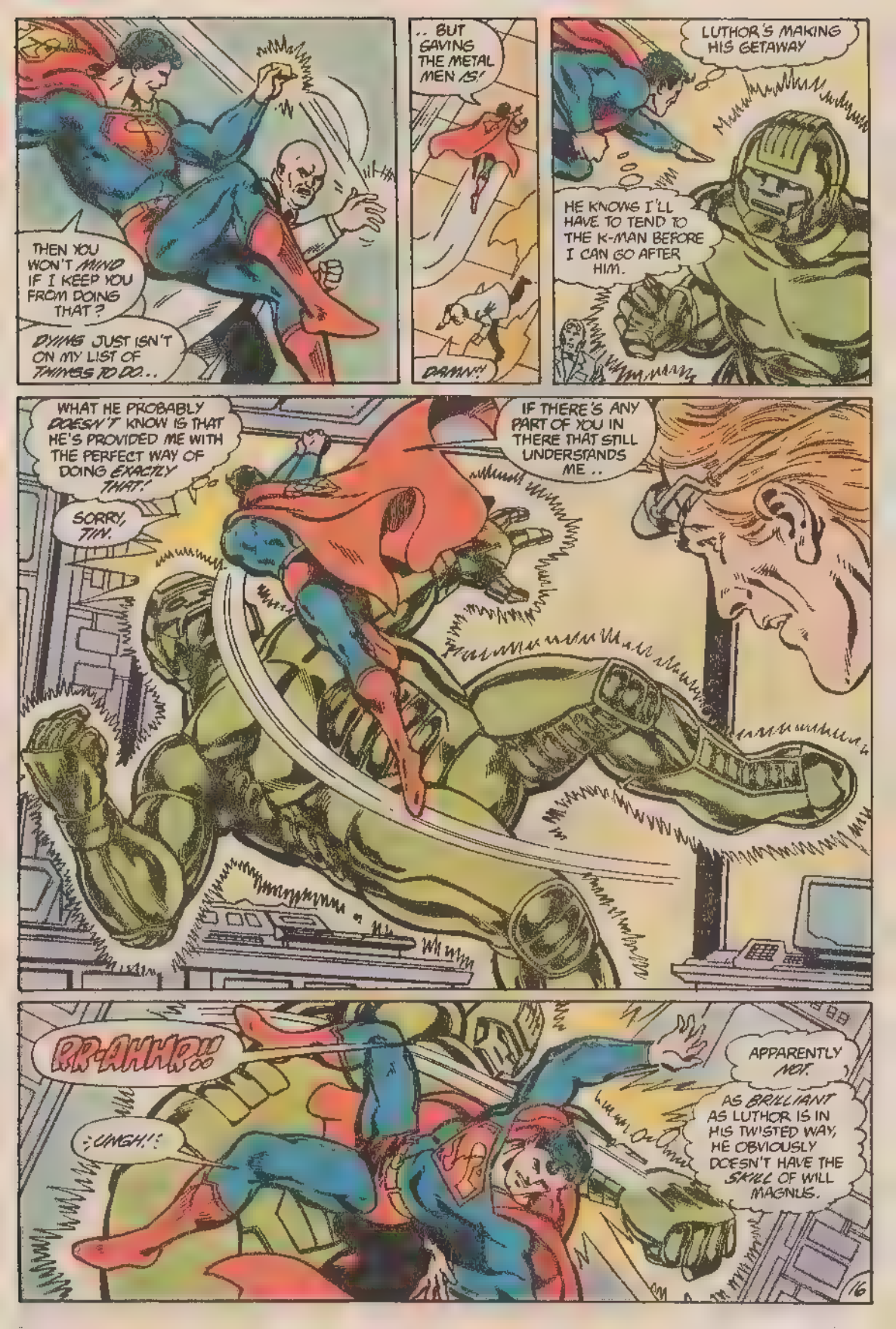

"SO, WHEN I EMERSED TIN'S MODIFIED R-METER INTO THE POLYMER OF HIS BODY
"IT ASSIMILATED ALL THE PROPERTIES OF KRYPTONITE.


AND MY K-MAN WAS BORN.
A BIRTH OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE SUPERMAN

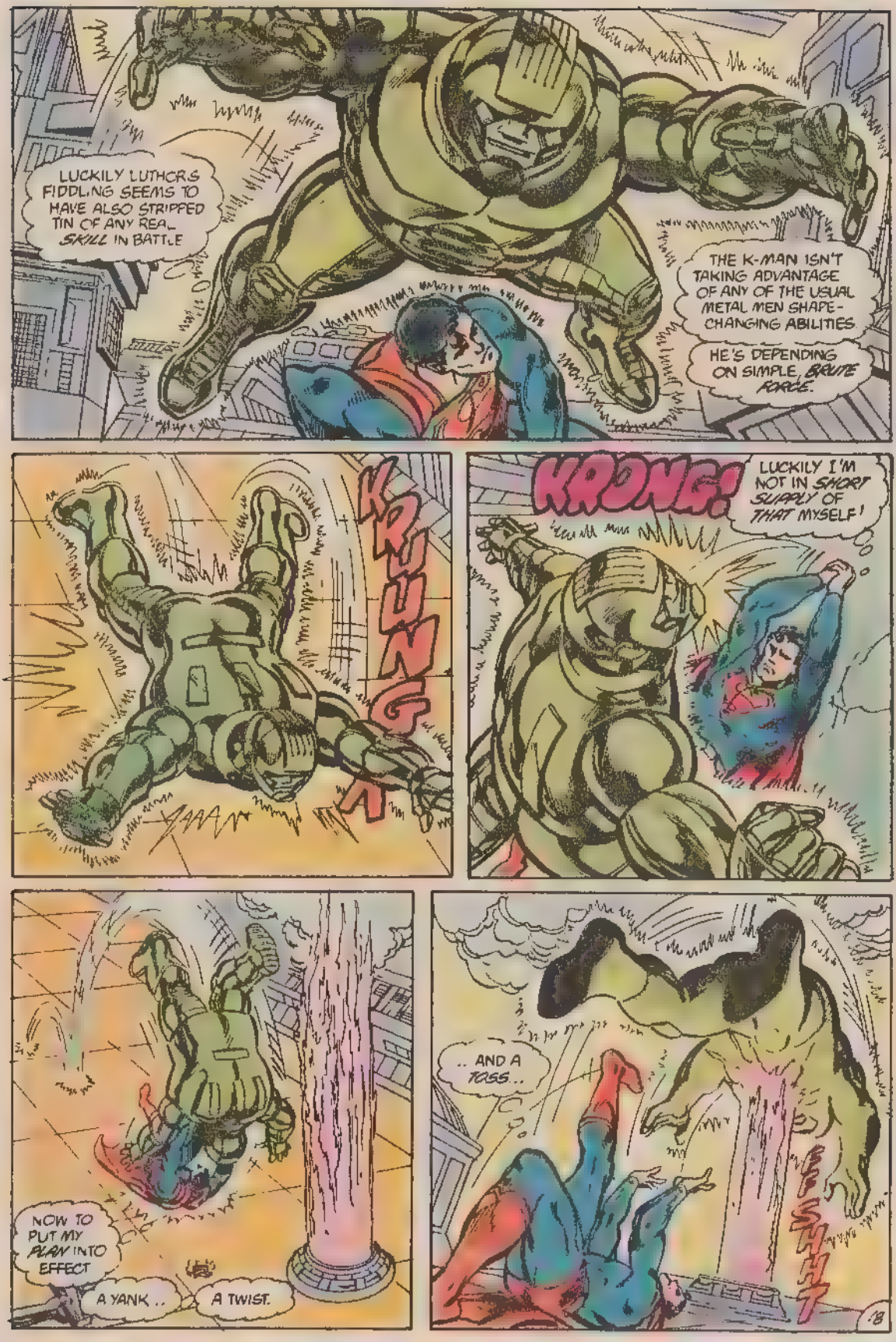
SINCE IT WILL NOW RESULT IN YOUR DEATH
YOUR STORY DOESN'T HOLD WATER...LUTHOR.
THE TIN I KNOW WOULD NEVER ATTACK ME... TRY TO KILL ME, NO MATTER WHAT... YOU'D TURNED HIM INTO.
PROBABLY NOT
BUT MY MODIFICATION OF HIS R-METER INCLUDED A SUBTLE REPROGRAMMING AT THE PERSONALITY CORE, ALSO
YOU SEE, I LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT MAGNUS'S GREATEST INVENTION.
ENOUGH TO ALLOW ME TO DESTROY THE REST OF THE METAL MEN!
N-NO..
OH, BUT, YES!
TINKER, SHOW OUR GUEST THE BOX
I DOUBT YOUR X-RAY VISION IS UP TO THE TASK OF PENETRATING THAT PLASTIC CONTAINER JUST AT THE MOMENT, SUPERMAN.
..SO LET ME TELL YOU THAT THAT BOX CONTAINS THE OTHER METAL MEN'S R-METERS...
THEIR VERY LIFE ESSENCE, IF I MAY BE SO... POETIC.
AND OF COURSE EACH IS COMPLETELY USELESS WITHOUT THE METALLIC POLYMER COMPOUND THAT FORMED THEIR BODIES, JUST AS THE POLYMER IS USELESS WITHOUT THE RESPONSOMETERS
NOT...BAD, LUTHOR.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, THE METAL MEN... WOULD HAVE APPROACHED YOUR MAN TINKER. INSTEAD OF. THEIR OWN CREATOR. .
BUT I THINK YOU MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO CLEVER THIS TIME LUTHOR
3

YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN MODIFYING SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MOTHERFUCKIN' MAN OF YOURS
THE RADIATION HE'S PUTTING OUT HEARTS IT HURTS A LOT.
BUT...IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SEEM TO BE KILLING ME
IN FACT IF I FORCE MYSELF TO IGNORE THE PAIN.
.. IT SEEMS LIKE ALL MY POWERS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING!
THINGS LIKE SUPER-STRENGTH.
.. AND SUPER-SPEED.
AND MAYBE ENOUGH BITS ABOUT ME STILL TO UNDO WHATEVER IT IS YOU'VE DONE TO 'EM
IF I CAN FIGURE OUT THE REPROGRAMMING SEQUENCE BEFORE..
BLAST!!
I KNOW THE METAL MEN ARE CAPABLE OF EXPERIENCING A KIND OF PAIN RESPONSE
SKRASH!


.. I WAS HOPING THE K-MAN WOULDN'T RECOVER SO QUICKLY
NOW I HAVE TO DEACTIVATE HIM
...WITHOUT HARMING 'IM!
AND, OF COURSE, HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR ME TO DO THAT.
KRANG
?!?
FINE
ALL I NEED IS A MOMENT OF DISTRACTION.
KLANG
SUPER-HEATED PLASMA JET!
K-MAN DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE IT
DAMN!
THIS IS A CONTINGENCY I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED!
BUT I AM NOT CONQUERED YET!
SO LONG AS I POSSESS THE OTHER METAL MEN'S R-METERS, I CAN BUILD AN ARMY OF KRYPTONOID MEN..
AND THEIR COMBINED POWER SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO KILL SUPERMAN...
15

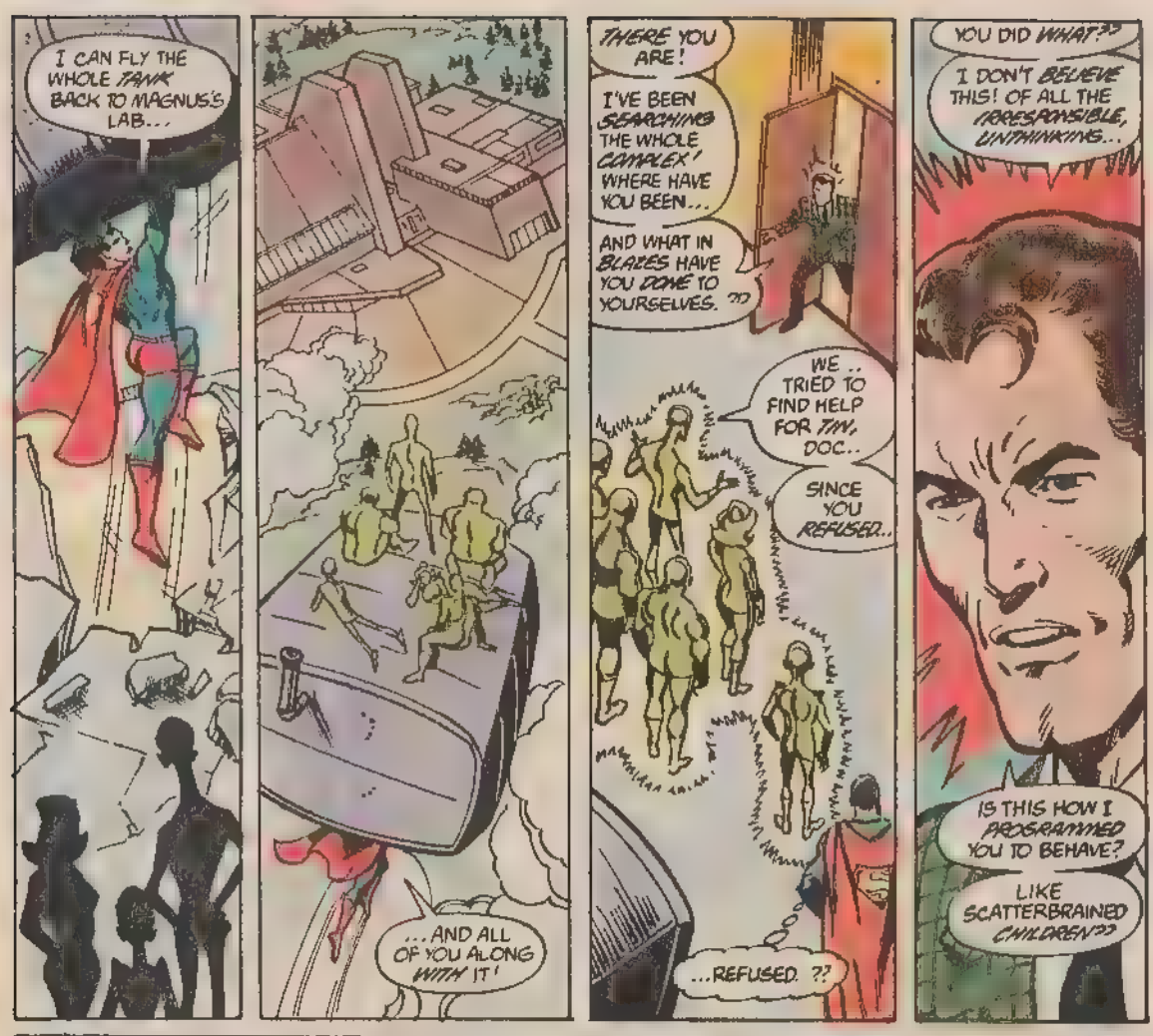

THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I KEEP YOU FROM DOING THAT?
DYING JUST ISN'T ON MY LIST OF THINGS TO DO..
.. BUT SAVING THE METAL MEN IS!
DAMN!!
LUTHOR'S MAKING HIS GETAWAY
HE KNOWS I'LL HAVE TO TEND TO THE K-MAN BEFORE I CAN GO AFTER HIM.
WHAT HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT HE'S PROVIDED ME WITH THE PERFECT WAY OF DOING EXACTLY THAT!
SORRY, TIN.
IF THERE'S ANY PART OF YOU IN THERE THAT STILL UNDERSTANDS ME..
RR-AHHH!!
;UNGH!;
APPARENTLY NOT.
AS BRILLIANT AS LUTHOR IS IN HIS TWISTED WAY, HE OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T HAVE THE SKILL OF WILL MAGNUS.
16

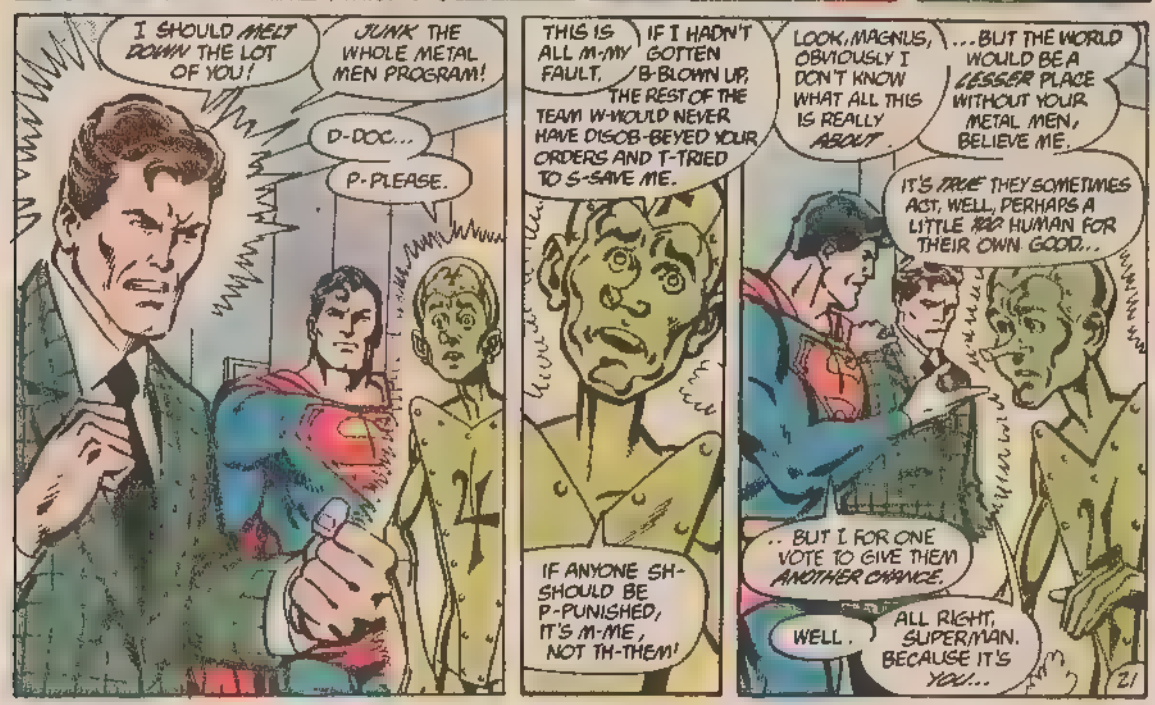
HIS REPROGRAMMING OF TIN'S RESPONSOMETER HAS OBLITERATED THE ORIGINAL PERSONALITY.
SLAMMM
PERMANENTLY?
I WONDER IS TIN LOST FOREVER..
WHANG!
OR DO I DARE HOPE LUTHOR'S TAMPERING JUST SENT HIM INTO SOME KIND OF ROBOTIC COMA?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THE KNOWLEDGE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BRING HIM OUT OF IT, IF THAT IS THE CASE.
KRRASHH
BUT..
UMMM..
I MAY HAVE ACCESS TO SOMEONE WHO DOES!
17

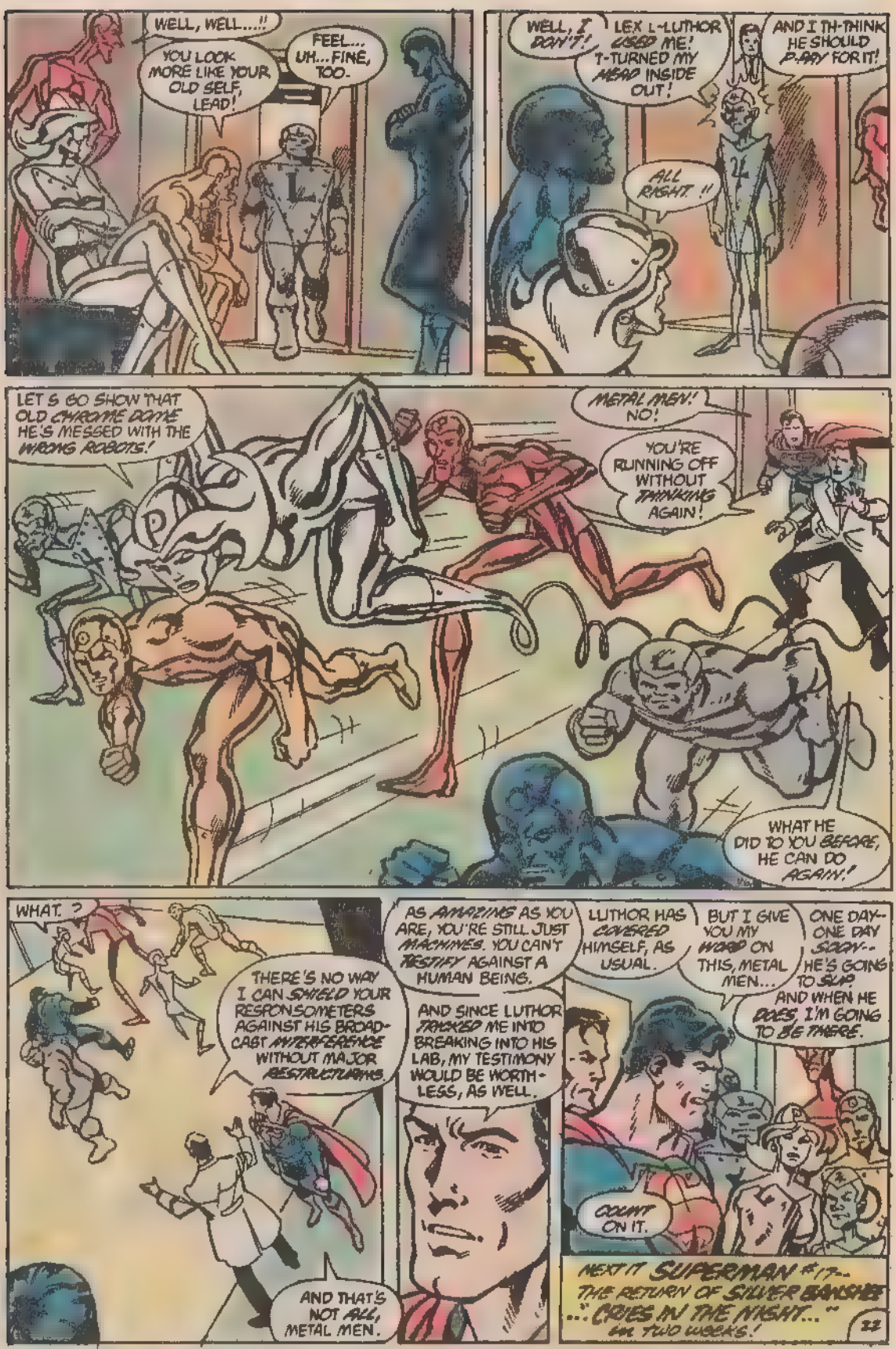

LUCKILY LUTHOR'S FIDDLING SEEMS TO HAVE ALSO STRIPPED TIN OF ANY REAL SKILL IN BATTLE
THE K-MAN ISN'T TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANY OF THE USUAL METAL MEN SHAPE-CHANGING ABILITIES
HE'S DEPENDING ON SIMPLE, BRUTE FORCE.
KRUNG
KRONG!
LUCKILY I'M NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY OF THAT MYSELF!
NOW TO PUT MY PLAN INTO EFFECT
A YANK..
A TWIST.
.. AND A TOSS..
FFSHHT
18

PERFECT!
THAT PLASMA JET MELTED THE POLYMER ON HIS CHEST PLATE
NOW, WHILE IT'S STILL MOLTEN..
THE METAL MEN'S R-METERS
.. GO INTO THE LIQUID AREA..
.. AND IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT .
". THE METAL MEN."
"... COME."
". OUT!"
NICE WORK, SUPERMAN
19

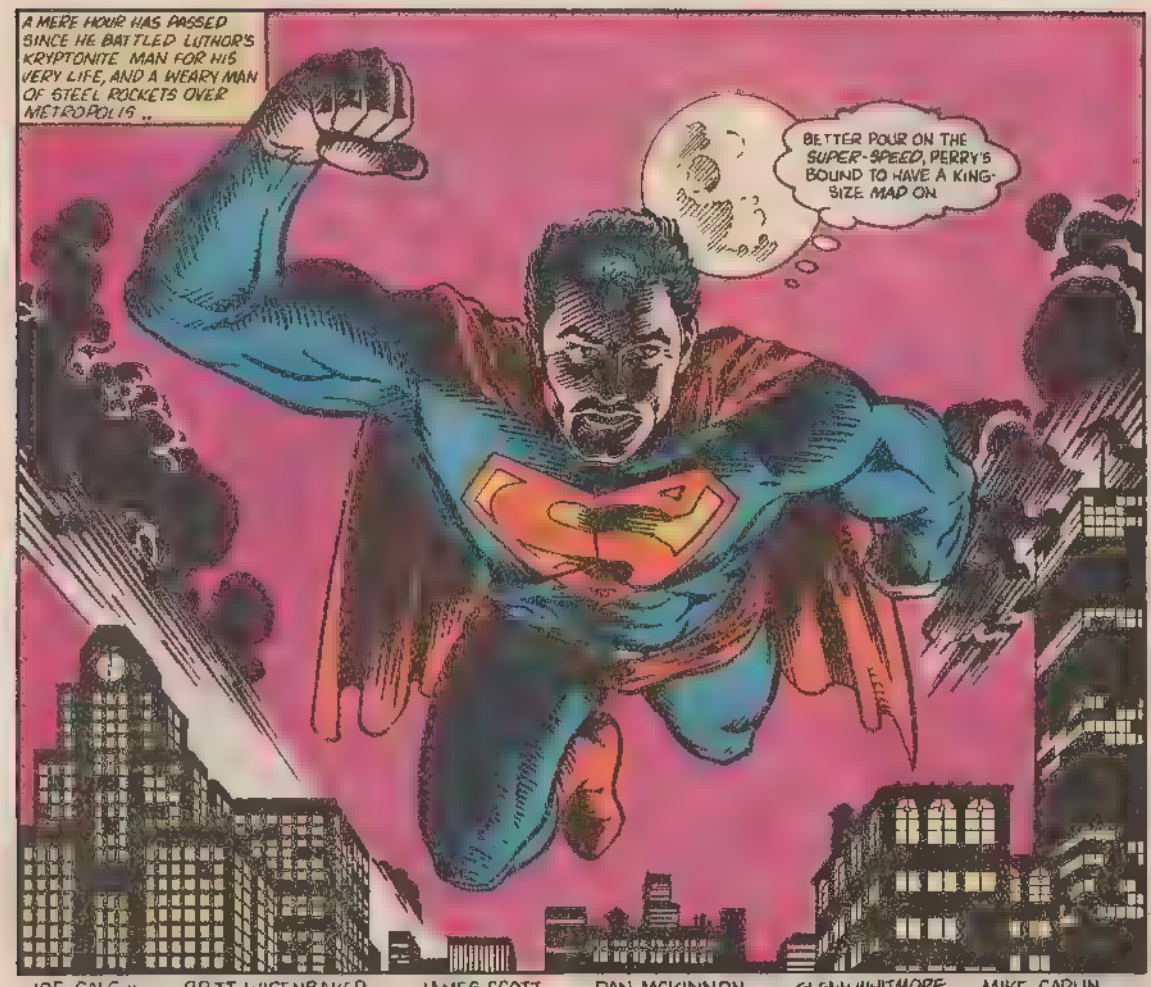
WE'RE ALL BACK TO BEING OURSELVES AGAIN! EVEN TIN!
UH I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS REALLY "OURSELVES," IRON.
I'D SAY NOT! GREEN IS HARDLY MY BEST COLOR!
NOR MINE!
WHY HAVEN'T WE CONVERTED TO OUR PROPER FORMS?
ANOTHER FLAW IN LUTHOR'S PLAN, I'D GUESS
HE NEEDED TO CREATE A LOT OF ADDITIONAL POLYMER MATERIAL TO CREATE THE FULL BULK OF HIS K-MAN
JUST AS HE LACKED DOC MAGNUS'S SKILLS IN REPROGRAMMING TIN'S RESPONSOMETER
HE WAS UNABLE TO ARBITRARILY DUPLICATE YOUR METALLIC SUBSTANCE, DESPITE HIS BOAST.
THEN... WE'RE STUCK IN THIS ANTERIOR GLOP? I CAN'T EVEN TURN AROUND AT ROOM TEMPERATURE...
PERHAPS NOT, BUT I THINK DR. TINKER MIGHT BE ABLE TO...
TINKER? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NOT... SURE.
BAD.. HEART FEELS.
OH-HHH-HH!!
IS HE DEAD, YES
CAN WE SAVE HIM...?
NO.
HE WAS FITTED WITH SOME KIND OF PACEMAKER
MY X-RAY VISION REVEALS IT'S SHORTED OUT HIS WHOLE NERVOUS SYSTEM
PART OF LUTHOR'S DESIGN, NO DOUBT. NO LOOSE ENDS.
"EXCEPT FOR YOUR M SSING BODIES, M'LADIES"
"WE'D BETTER FIND THEM."
WAIT, SUPERMAN... THIS DRAIN..
THEY'RE ALL THERE MIXED IN WITH A LOAD OF CHEMICAL SLUSH BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, NOTHING'S MISSING
GOOD.
20


I CAN FLY THE WHOLE TANK BACK TO MAGNUS'S LAB...
...AND ALL OF YOU ALONG WITH IT!
THERE YOU ARE!
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE WHOLE COMPLEX! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN...
AND WHAT IN BLAZES HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELVES.??
WE.. TRIED TO FIND HELP FOR TIN, DOC..
SINCE YOU REFUSED..
...REFUSED. ??
YOU DID WHAT??
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! OF ALL THE IRRESPONSIBLE, UNTHINKING...
IS THIS HOW I REPROGRAMMED YOU TO BEHAVE?
LIKE SCATTERBRAINED CHILDREN??


I SHOULD MELT DOWN THE LOT OF YOU!
JUNK THE WHOLE METAL MEN PROGRAM!
D-DOC...
P-PLEASE.
THIS IS ALL M-MY FAULT.
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN B-BLOWN UP, THE REST OF THE TEAM W-WOULD NEVER HAVE DISOB-BEYED YOUR ORDERS AND T-TRIED TO S-SAVE ME.
IF ANYONE SH-SHOULD BE P-PUNISHED, IT'S M-ME, NOT TH-THEM!
LOOK, MAGNUS, OBVIOUSLY I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL THIS IS REALLY ABOUT.
...BUT THE WORLD WOULD BE A LESSER PLACE WITHOUT YOUR METAL MEN, BELIEVE ME.
IT'S TRUE THEY SOMETIMES ACT, WELL, PERHAPS A LITTLE TOO HUMAN FOR THEIR OWN GOOD...
.. BUT I FOR ONE VOTE TO GIVE THEM ANOTHER CHANCE.
WELL.
ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN. BECAUSE IT'S YOU!...


WELL, WELL...!!
YOU LOOK MORE LIKE YOUR OLD SELF, LEAD!
FEEL... UH... FINE, TOO.
WELL, I DON'T!
LEX L-LUTHOR USED ME! T-TURNED MY HEAD INSIDE OUT!
AND I TH-THINK HE SHOULD P-PAY FOR IT!
ALL RIGHT.!!
LET'S GO SHOW THAT OLD CHROME DOME HE'S MESSED WITH THE WRONG ROBOTS!
METAL MEN! NO!
YOU'RE RUNNING OFF WITHOUT THINKING AGAIN!
WHAT HE DID TO YOU BEFORE, HE CAN DO AGAIN!
WHAT.?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SHIELD YOUR RESPONSOMETERS AGAINST HIS BROADCAST INTERFERENCE WITHOUT MAJOR RESTRUCTURING.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL, METAL MEN.
AS AMAZING AS YOU ARE, YOU'RE STILL JUST MACHINES. YOU CAN'T TESTIFY AGAINST A HUMAN BEING.
AND SINCE LUTHOR TRICKED ME INTO BREAKING INTO HIS LAB, MY TESTIMONY WOULD BE WORTHLESS, AS WELL.
LUTHOR HAS COVERED HIMSELF, AS USUAL.
BUT I GIVE YOU MY WORD ON THIS, METAL MEN...
ONE DAY-- ONE DAY SOON-- HE'S GOING TO SLIP. AND WHEN HE DOES, I'M GOING TO BE THERE.
COUNT ON IT.
NEXT IT SUPERMAN #17... THE RETURN OF SILVER BANSHEE ..."CRIES IN THE NIGHT..." IN TWO WEEKS!
22

DC
DC's BOOK!
No.1
SUPERMAN & JIMMY OLSEN
ACTION COMICS
BACK OFF, CREEPS --I'VE JUST SUMMONED MY PAL, SUPERMAN!
THAT'S RIGHT... THE MAN OF STEEL...
ZEEEZEEEZEEE


A MERE HOUR HAS PASSED SINCE HE BATTLED LUTHOR'S KRYPTONITE MAN FOR HIS VERY LIFE, AND A WEARY MAN OF STEEL ROCKETS OVER METROPOLIS ..
BETTER POUR ON THE SUPER-SPEED, PERRY'S BOUND TO HAVE A KING-SIZE MAD ON

JOE CALCHI
WRITER

BRITT WISENBAKER
PENCILLER

JAMES SCOTT
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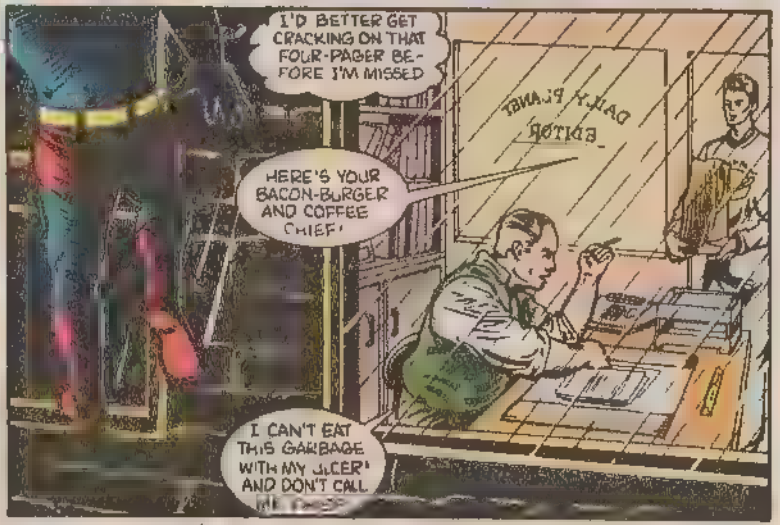
DAN MCKINNON
LETTERER

GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST

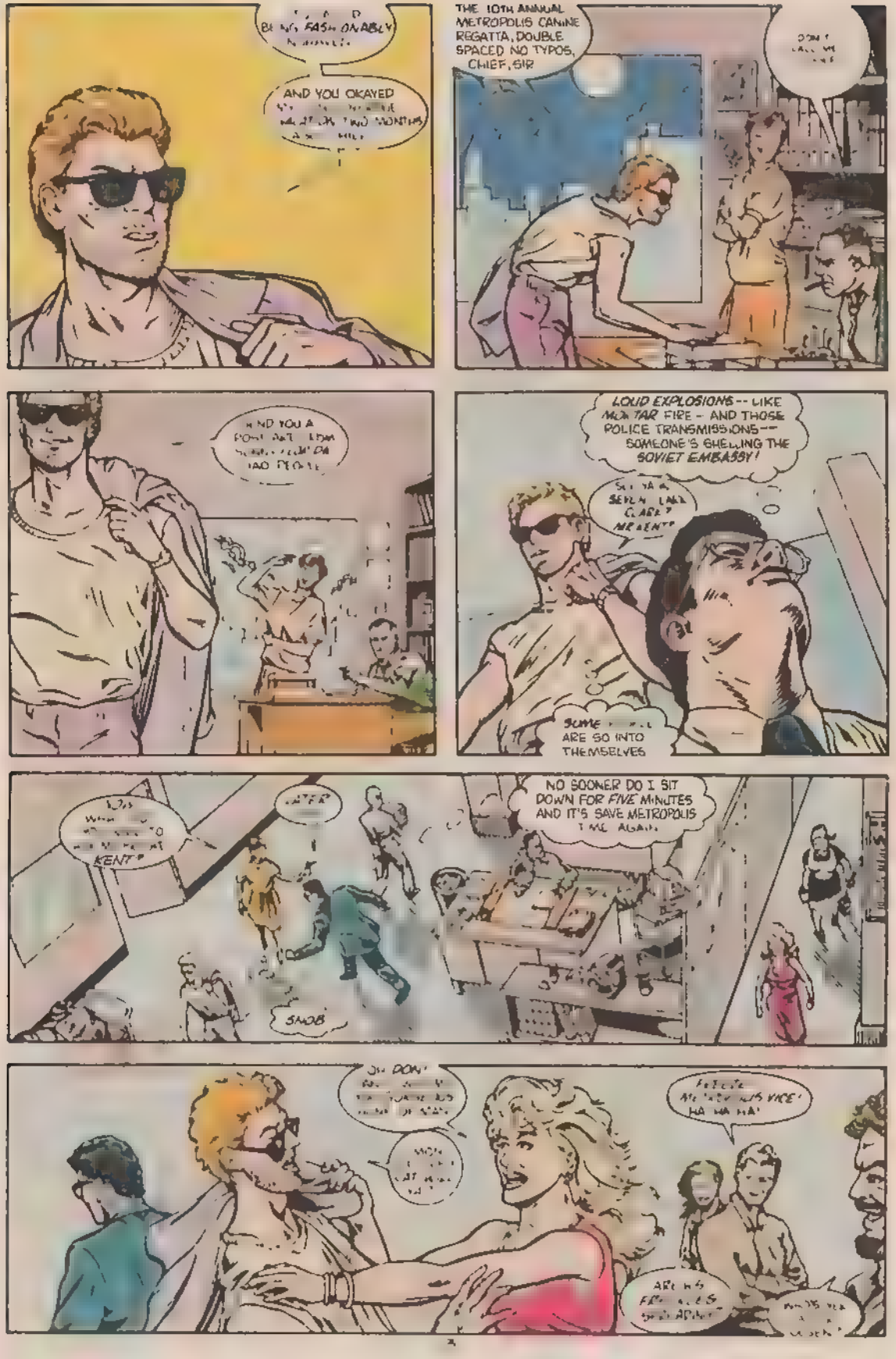
MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

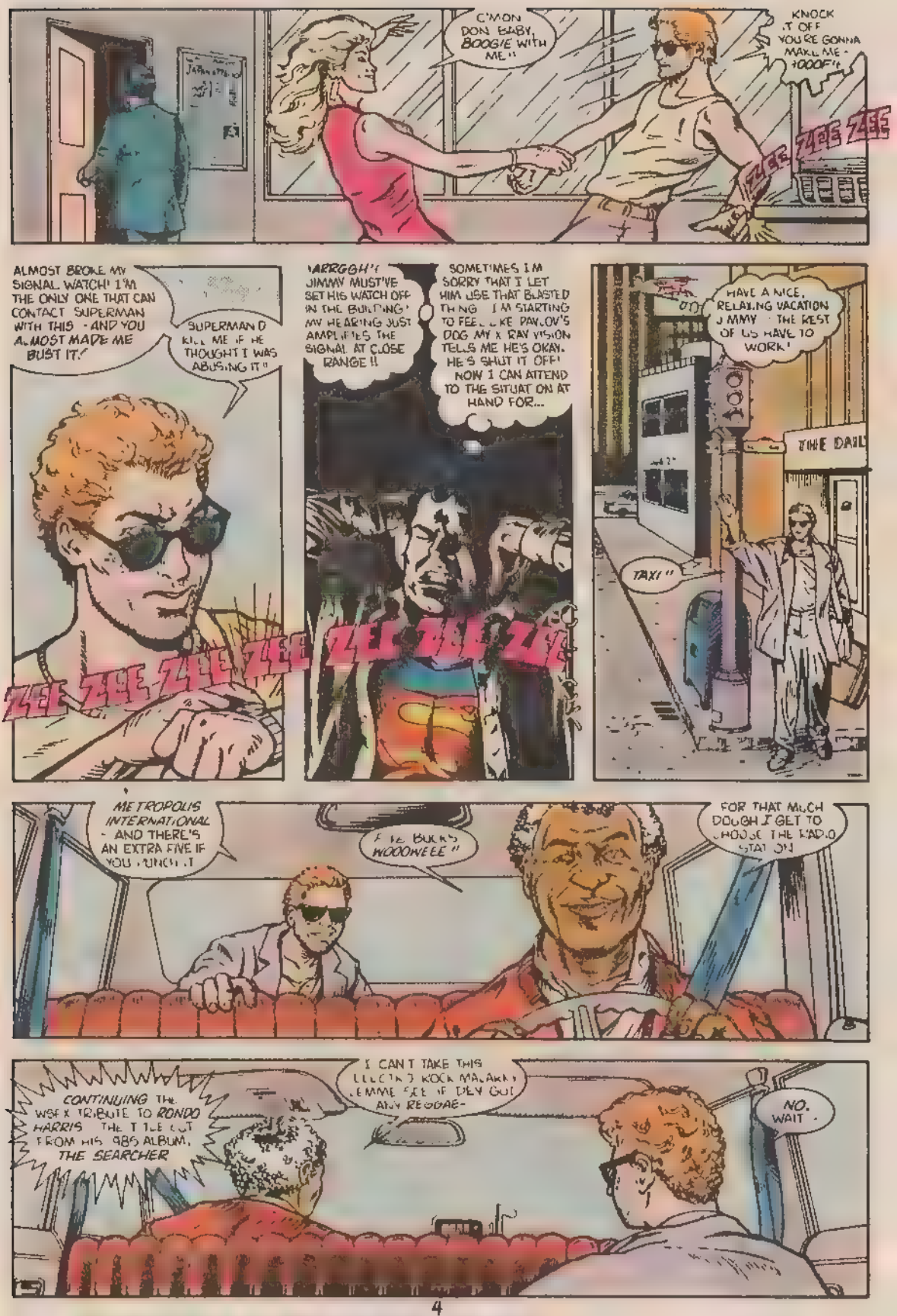
SUPERMAN and JIMMY OLSEN in THE karma BAGGERS

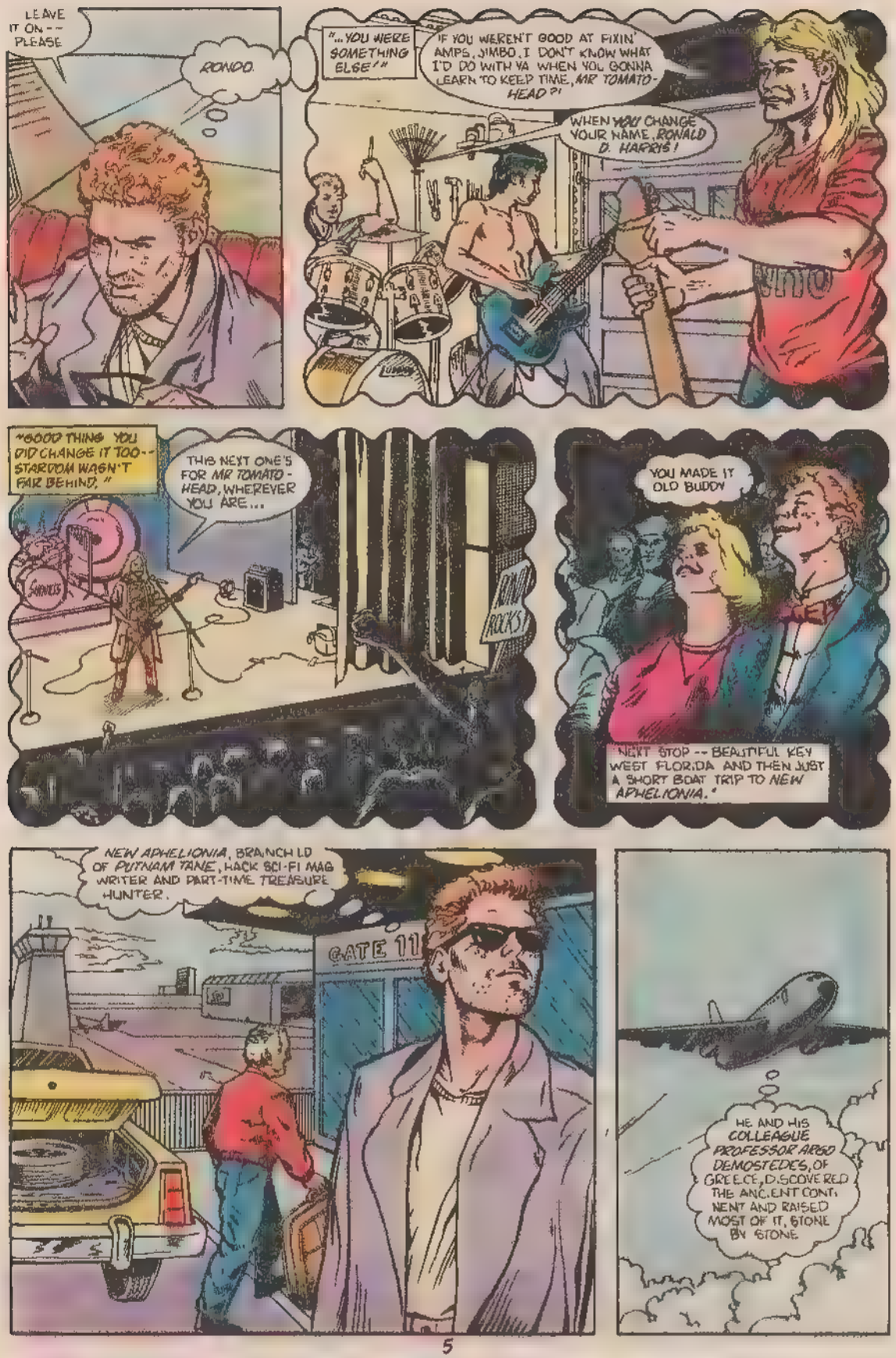
Created by TERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER


I'D BETTER GET CRACKING ON THAT FOUR-PAGER BEFORE I'M MISSED
HERE'S YOUR BACON-BURGER AND COFFEE CHIEF!
I CAN'T EAT THIS GARBAGE WITH MY ULCER! AND DON'T CALL ME CHIEF!
DAILY PLANET EDITOR

THANK GOD FOR SUPPLY CLOSETS
ALL RIGHT, LEAVE IT I'LL PROBABLY DIE EATING THIS STUFF
LOIS - MY OFFICE
DAILY PLANET
HI LOIS! LISTEN, WOULD YOU LIKE --
LATER, KENT AND YOU'D BETTER GET IN GEAR, PERRY'S GOT THE FRIDAY BLUES!
YOU RANG?
LISTEN - I WANT THE RONDO HARRIS OBIT MOVED TO THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE SECTION, COVER STORY SPOT AND GET SOME FEEDBACK FROM HIS BANDMATES THE GH SINUSES
THAT'S SINNICK'S PERRY!
WHATEVER! WHERE'S THAT HALF-WIT OLSEN WITH THE DOGSHOW STORY?
BEATS ME. HASN'T BEEN IN YET MAYBE HE'S --
WELL! HALLOWEEN HAS COME AROUND AGAIN I SEE
JIMMY ?! IS THAT YOU?!
SOMEBODY TAKE MY NAME N VAIN?
OLSEN YOU'RE LATE AND YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO COME SAUNTERING IN LIKE --
TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS TRANSFORMATION, JIMMY? DID MY SISTER LUCY PUT YOU UP TO THIS? AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE -- IT'S --

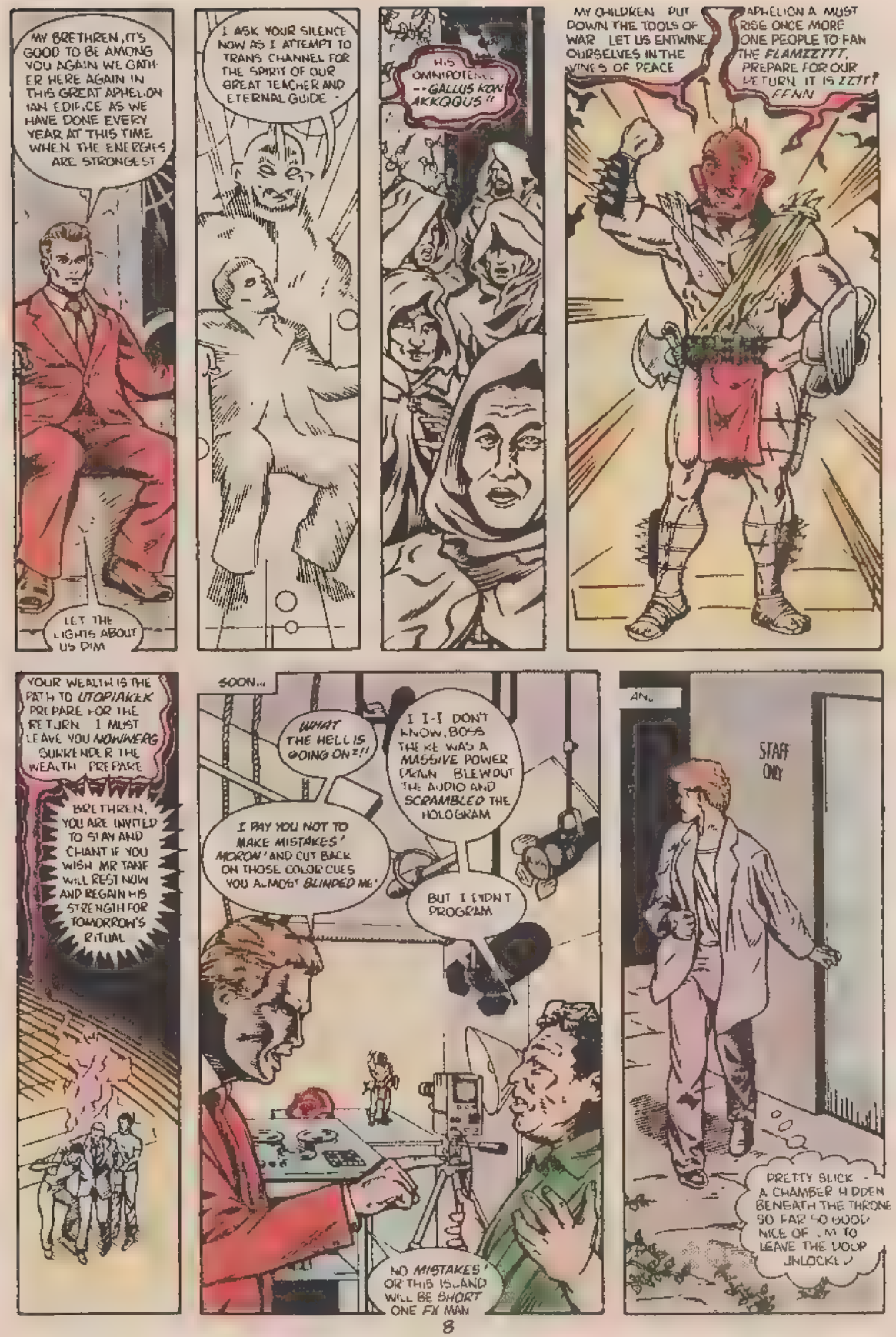

AND YOU OKAYED
THE 10TH ANNUAL METROPOLIS CANINE REGATTA, DOUBLE SPACED, NO TYPOS, CHIEF, SIR
LOUD EXPLOSIONS -- LIKE MORTAR FIRE - AND THOSE POLICE TRANSMISSIONS -- SOMEONE'S SHELLING THE SOVIET EMBASSY!
SOME PEOPLE ARE SO INTO THEMSELVES
NO SOONER DO I SIT DOWN FOR FIVE MINUTES AND IT'S SAVE METROPOLIS TIME AGAIN.
SMOB
HA HA HA!

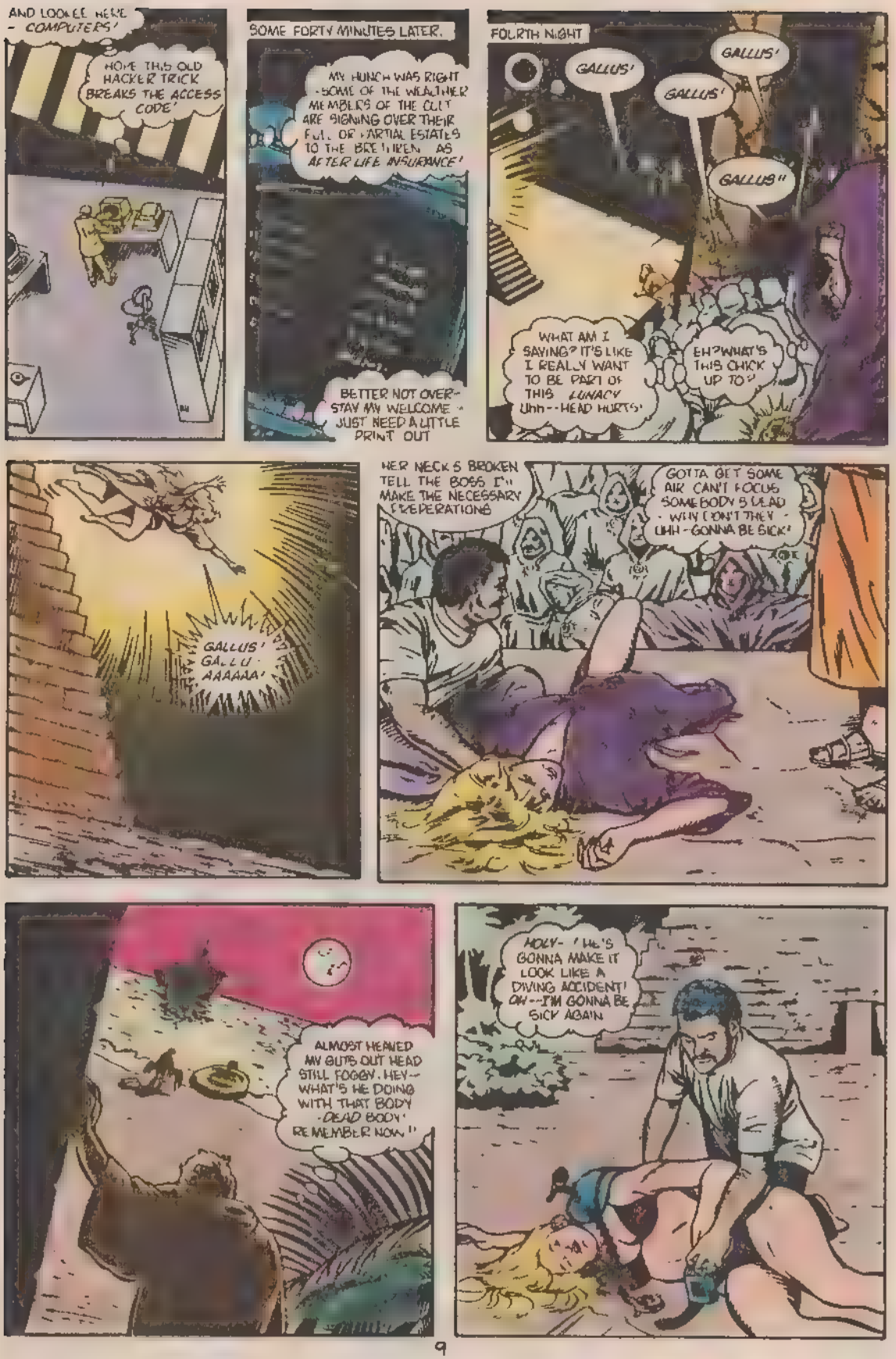

C'MON DON BABY, BOOGIE WITH ME!!
KNOCK IT OFF YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME - WOOOF!!
ZEEE ZEEE ZEEE
ALMOST BROKE MY SIGNAL WATCH! I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN CONTACT SUPERMAN WITH THIS - AND YOU ALMOST MADE ME BUST IT!
SUPERMAN'D KILL ME IF HE THOUGHT I WAS ABUSING IT!!
ZEEE ZEEE ZEEE ZEEE
ARRGGH! JIMMY MUST'VE SET HIS WATCH OFF IN THE BUILDING! MY HEARING JUST AMPLIFIES THE SIGNAL AT CLOSE RANGE!!
SOMETIMES I'M SORRY THAT I LET HIM USE THAT BLASTED THING. I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE PAVLOV'S DOG. MY X RAY VISION TELLS ME HE'S OKAY. HE'S SHUT IT OFF! NOW I CAN ATTEND TO THE SITUATION AT HAND FOR...
ZEE ZEE ZEE
HAVE A NICE, RELAXING VACATION JIMMY. THE REST OF US HAVE TO WORK!
THE DAILY
TAXI!!
METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL - AND THERE'S AN EXTRA FIVE IF YOU PUNCH IT
FIVE BUCKS WOOOWEEE!!
FOR THAT MUCH DOUGH I GET TO CHOOSE THE RADIO STATION!
CONTINUING THE WSFX TRIBUTE TO RONDO HARRIS. THE TITLE CUT FROM HIS 985 ALBUM, THE SEARCHER
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ELECTRIC ROCK MALARKY. LEMME SEE IF DEV GOT ANY REGGAE-
NO. WAIT.

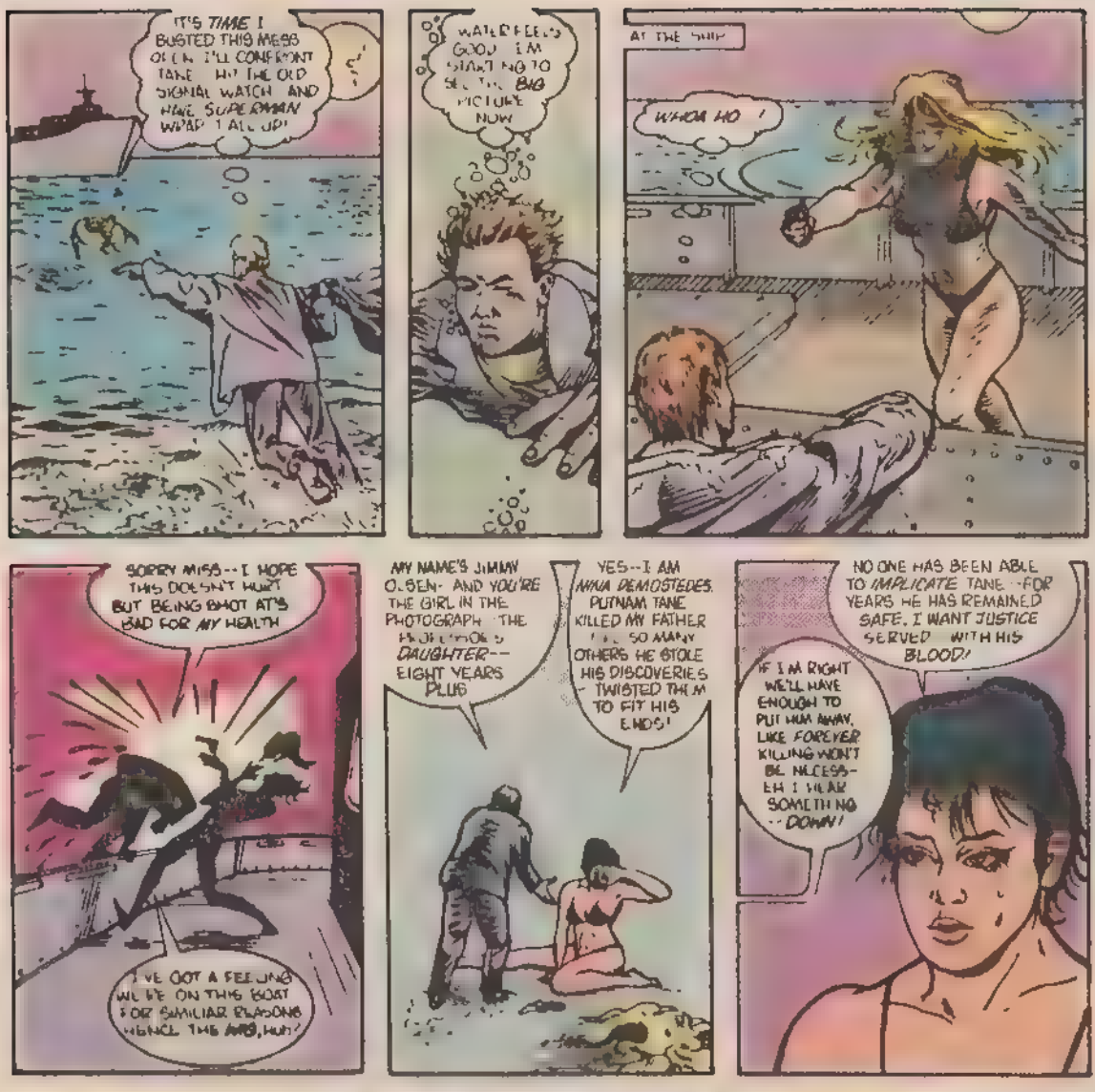

LEAVE IT ON -- PLEASE
RONDO.
"...YOU WERE SOMETHING ELSE!"
IF YOU WEREN'T GOOD AT FIXIN' AMPS, JIMBO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITH YA WHEN YOU GONNA LEARN TO KEEP TIME, MR TOMATO-HEAD?!
WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR NAME, RONALD D. HARRIS!
"GOOD THING YOU DID CHANGE IT TOO-- STARDOM WASN'T FAR BEHIND."
THIS NEXT ONE'S FOR MR TOMATO-HEAD, WHEREVER YOU ARE...
RONDO ROCKS!
YOU MADE IT OLD BUDDY
"NEXT STOP -- BEAUTIFUL KEY WEST FLORIDA AND THEN JUST A SHORT BOAT TRIP TO NEW APHELIONIA."
NEW APHELIONIA, BRANCH LD OF PUTNAM TANE, HACK SCI-FI MAG WRITER AND PART-TIME TREASURE HUNTER.
GATE 11
HE AND HIS COLLEAGUE PROFESSOR ARSO DEMOSTEDES, OF GREECE, DISCOVERED THE ANCIENT CONTINENT AND RAISED MOST OF IT, STONE BY STONE.

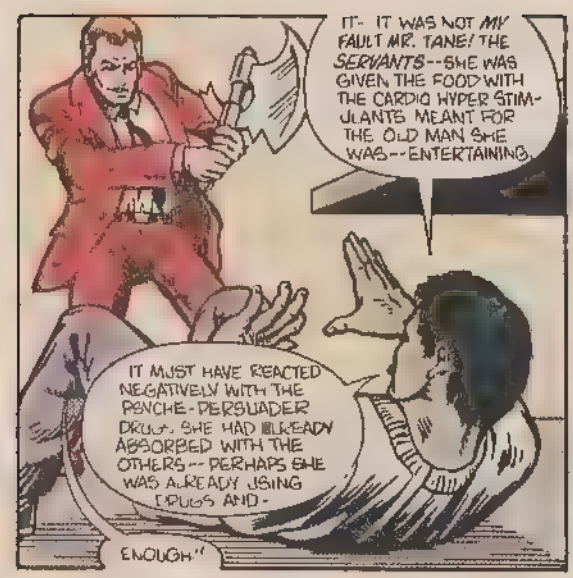
DEMOSTEDES DIED DURING AN EXCAVATION DIVE BEFORE THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED
BUT THAT DIDN'T DETER TANE ... HE WENT ON TO AMASS A HUGE FORTUNE FROM THE SALVAGED RELICS NOT TO MENTION HIS BOOK PROFITS
"I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A RESERVATION FOR O.L JAMESON?"
CONFIRMED, SIR OUR HYDROFOIL LEAVES HOURLY FOR NEW APHELIONIA ISLAND
IT WASN'T HARD SETTING UP THIS WITH A FIRST HAND LOOK AT TANE'S LATEST ENTERPRISE -- THE BRETHREN OF GALLUS, A NEW-AGE CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP RONDO WAS A MEMBER OF.
A GROUP HE WILLED HIS EVERY LAST DIME AFTER HIS DEATH . NOT LIKE HIM TO NEGLECT HIS FAMILY.
ONCE I BREAK THIS STORY, THE OLSEN NAME WILL JOIN THE RANKS OF THE GREAT INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS -- REAL GUTS JOURNALISM!
[redacted] KENT AND OLSEN —I LIKE IT!
COURSE -- HAVING A DIRECT LINE TO SUPERMAN ON MY WRIST DOESN'T HURT MY SHOT AT THIS EITHER. HEY!
THAT'S DELIA BANNING SOAP OPERA QUEEN AND DETECTIVE DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS INTO THIS STUFF.
MARTY SCANONE, THE MYSTERY YARN WRITER AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S HIS DAUGHTER
AND.. HOLY CROW! I CAN'T HANDLE IT! COLONEL JOHN J. MAHONEY -- ASTRONAUT, WAR HERO AND SHUTTLE COMMANDER! HOW'D TANE SUCK A BY THE BOOK GUY LIKE HIM INTO THIS LOONEYLAND?!

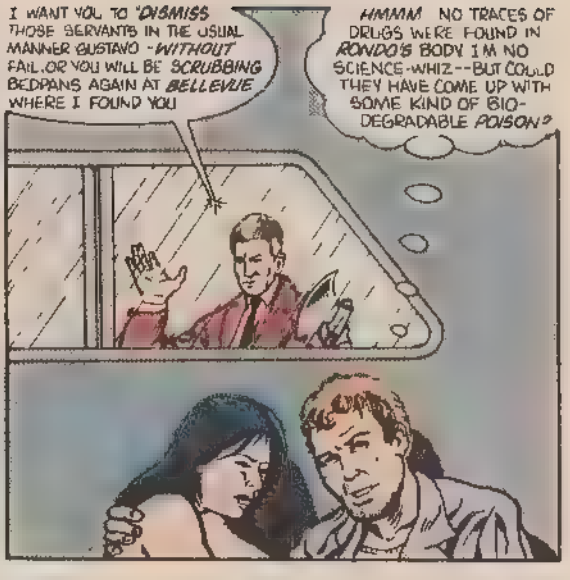
WHILE IN METROPOLIS.
CENTRAL? PINERO HERE WE'VE ROUNDED UP ALL THE DEATH BRIGADERS BUT THE BOMB SQUAD BOYS THINK THERE MAY BE SOME HIDDEN EXPLOSIVES SUPERMAN? HE'S A HAND
SOMEBODY'S
DWARE THE MILITARY HASN'T EVEN RELEASED TO OUR TROOPS YET!
I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS --BUT... WHERE DO I START?
GEORGE ORWELL
GOOD EVENING MY BRETHREN AND WELCOME TO NEW APHELIONIA WE WILL BE TOGETHER SOON PLEASE DON YOUR CEREMONIAL TUNIC AND POWER CRYSTAL FOR TONIGHT'S BANQUET IN THE FEASTING HALL ONENESS AND PEACE
SOME SPREAD, HAH KID? WHADDA YA DO FER A LIVIN HAH?
AHM A AUTHOR MYSELF YOU EVER READ HIS CALIBER CO EDS
THAT GIRL AGAIN SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT HER CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT
BRETHREN I GIVE YOU OUR MOST HOLY LEADER PUTNAM TANE!
AT LAST THE MOMENT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR

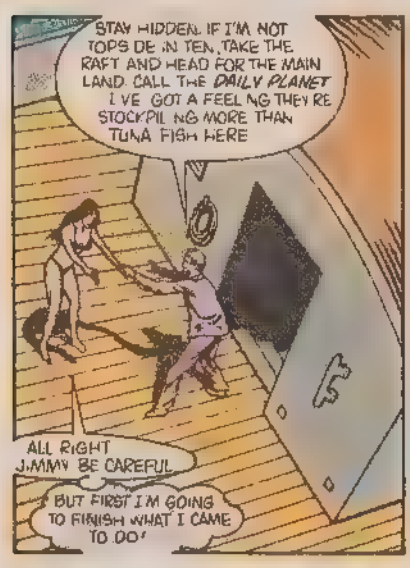

MY BRETHREN, IT'S GOOD TO BE AMONG YOU AGAIN WE GATHER HERE AGAIN IN THIS GREAT APHELION EDIFICE AS WE HAVE DONE EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME WHEN THE ENERGIES ARE STRONGEST
LET THE LIGHTS ABOUT US DIM
I ASK YOUR SILENCE NOW AS I ATTEMPT TO TRANS CHANNEL FOR THE SPIRIT OF OUR GREAT TEACHER AND ETERNAL GUIDE -
HIS OMNIPOTENCE --GALLUS KON AKKQQUS"
MY CHILDREN PUT DOWN THE TOOLS OF WAR LET US ENTWINE OURSELVES IN THE VINES OF PEACE
APHELION A MUST RISE ONCE MORE ONE PEOPLE TO FAN THE FLAMZZTTT, PREPARE FOR OUR RETURN IT IS ZZTT FFNN
YOUR WEALTH IS THE PATH TO UTOPIAKKK PREPARE FOR THE RETURN I MUST LEAVE YOU HONWERG SURRENDER THE WEALTH PREPARE
BRETHREN, YOU ARE INVITED TO STAY AND CHANT IF YOU WISH MR TANE WILL REST NOW AND REGAIN HIS STRENGTH FOR TOMORROW'S RITUAL
SOON...
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!!
I I-I DON'T KNOW, BOSS THERE WAS A MASSIVE POWER DRAIN BLEW OUT THE AUDIO AND SCRAMBLED THE HOLOGRAM
I PAY YOU NOT TO MAKE MISTAKES' MORON' AND CUT BACK ON THOSE COLOR CUES YOU ALMOST BLINDED ME'
BUT I DIDN'T PROGRAM
NO MISTAKES' OR THIS ISLAND WILL BE SHORT ONE FX MAN
AND...
STAFF ONLY
PRETTY SLICK - A CHAMBER HIDDEN BENEATH THE THRONE SO FAR SO GOOD NICE OF HIM TO LEAVE THE DOOR UNLOCKED

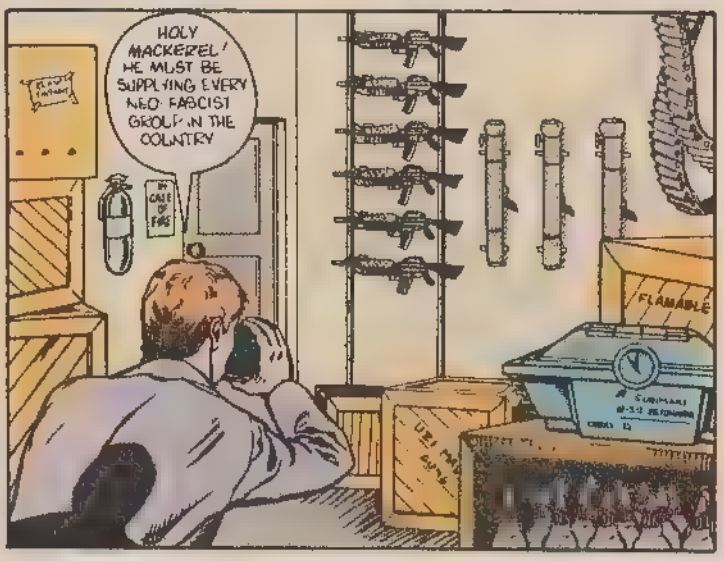

AND LOOKEE HERE - COMPUTERS!
HOME THIS OLD HACKER TRICK BREAKS THE ACCESS CODE!
SOME FORTY MINUTES LATER.
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT - SOME OF THE WEALTHIER MEMBERS OF THE CULT ARE SIGNING OVER THEIR FULL OR PARTIAL ESTATES TO THE BRETHREN AS AFTER LIFE INSURANCE!
BETTER NOT OVER-STAY MY WELCOME - JUST NEED A LITTLE PRINT OUT
FOURTH NIGHT
GALLUS!
GALLUS!
GALLUS!
GALLUS!!
WHAT AM I SAYING? IT'S LIKE I REALLY WANT TO BE PART OF THIS LUNACY Uhh--HEAD HURTS!
EH?WHAT'S THIS CHICK UP TO?
GALLUS! GALLU- AAAAAA!
HER NECK'S BROKEN TELL THE BOSS I'll MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPERATIONS
GOTTA GET SOME AIR CAN'T FOCUS SOMEBODY'S DEAD - WHY DON'T THEY - UHH - GONNA BE SICK!
ALMOST HEAVED MY GUTS OUT HEAD STILL FOGGY. HEY-- WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THAT BODY -DEAD BODY! REMEMBER NOW!!
HOLY- ! HE'S GONNA MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A DIVING ACCIDENT! OH--I'M GONNA BE SICK AGAIN


IT'S TIME! BUSTED THIS MESS OPEN. I'LL CONFRONT TANE. HIT THE OLD SIGNAL WATCH AND HAVE SUPERMAN WRAP IT ALL UP!
WATER FEELS GOOD. I'M START'NG TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE NOW.
AT THE SHIP
WHOA HO!
SORRY MISS--I HOPE THIS DOESN'T HURT BUT BEING SHOT AT'S BAD FOR MY HEALTH
I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'LL BE ON THIS BOAT FOR SIMILIAR REASONS HENCE, THE AWE, HUH?
MY NAME'S JIMMY OLSEN- AND YOU'RE THE GIRL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. THE PROFESSOR'S DAUGHTER-- EIGHT YEARS PLUS
YES--I AM NINA DEMOSTEDES. PUTNAM TANE KILLED MY FATHER AND SO MANY OTHERS. HE STOLE HIS DISCOVERIES - TWISTED THEM TO FIT HIS ENDS!
NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPLICATE TANE--FOR YEARS HE HAS REMAINED SAFE. I WANT JUSTICE SERVED WITH HIS BLOOD!
IF I'M RIGHT WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO PUT HIM AWAY, LIKE FOREVER. KILLING WON'T BE NECESS- EH I HEAR SOMETHING--DOWN!
I ASSURE YOU GENTLEMEN THE MAN'S LIFE OR DEATH WILL BE THE MOST MINOR EQUIPPE. OF THIS AND QUICK TO END MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. DON'T YOU AGREE, NINA?
AH--AT GUSTAVO
YOU HAVE CAUSED ME MUCH GRIEF, GUSTAVO! THAT GIRL WAS MEANT FOR MY--AMUSEMENT!

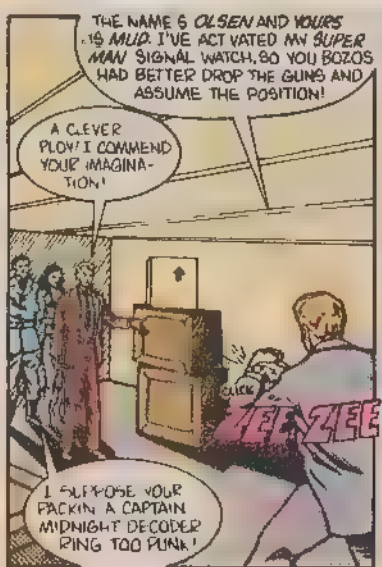

IT- IT WAS NOT MY FAULT MR. TANE! THE SERVANTS--SHE WAS GIVEN THE FOOD WITH THE CARDIO HYPER STIMULANTS MEANT FOR THE OLD MAN SHE WAS--ENTERTAINING.
IT MUST HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY WITH THE PSYCHE-PERSUADER DRUGS SHE HAD ALREADY ABSORBED WITH THE OTHERS--PERHAPS SHE WAS ALREADY USING DRUGS AND-
ENOUGH!"

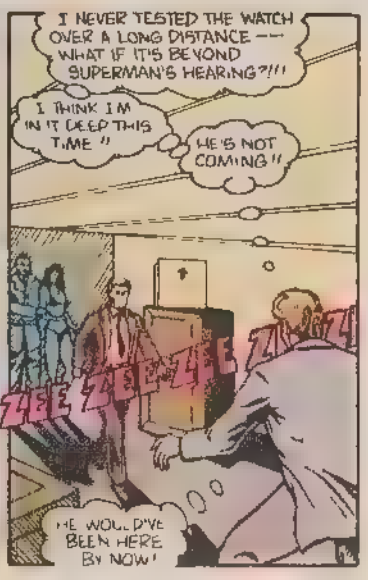

I WANT YOU TO 'DISMISS' THOSE SERVANTS IN THE USUAL MANNER GUSTAVO -WITHOUT FAIL.OR YOU WILL BE SCRUBBING BEDPANS AGAIN AT BELLEVUE WHERE I FOUND YOU!
HMMM NO TRACES OF DRUGS WERE FOUND IN RONDO'S BODY I'M NO SCIENCE-WHIZ--BUT COULD THEY HAVE COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF BIO-DEGRADABLE POISON?


STAY HIDDEN. IF I'M NOT TOPS DE .IN TEN, TAKE THE RAFT AND HEAD FOR THE MAIN LAND. CALL THE DAILY PLANET I'VE GOT A FEELING THEY'RE STOCKPILING MORE THAN TUNA FISH HERE
ALL RIGHT JIMMY BE CAREFUL
BUT FIRST I'M GOING TO FINISH WHAT I CAME TO DO!


HOLY MACKEREL! HE MUST BE SUPPLYING EVERY NEO-FASCIST GROUP IN THE COUNTRY
IN CASE OF FIRE
FLAMABLE

IT'S MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THAT I ASSURE YOU, MR JAMESON IF THAT IS YOUR NAME..AND NOW IF YOU'D CARE TO EXPLAIN WE CAN EXPEDIATE YOUR DISPOSAL AND MY DEAR DESIRABLE NINA'S AS WELL


THE NAME'S OLSEN AND YOURS IS MUD. I'VE ACTIVATED MY SUPER MAN SIGNAL WATCH, SO YOU BOZOS HAD BETTER DROP THE GUNS AND ASSUME THE POSITION!
A CLEVER PLOY! I COMMEND YOUR IMAGINATION!
CLICK
ZEE-ZEE ZEE ZEE-EE ZZZZ
I SUPPOSE YOUR PACKIN A CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT DECODER RING TOO PUNK!


I NEVER TESTED THE WATCH OVER A LONG DISTANCE --- WHAT IF IT'S BEYOND SUPERMAN'S HEARING?!!!
I THINK I'M IN IT DEEP THIS TIME"
HE'S NOT COMING!!
ZEE-ZEE ZEE ZEE-EE ZZZZ
HE WOULD'VE BEEN HERE BY NOW!

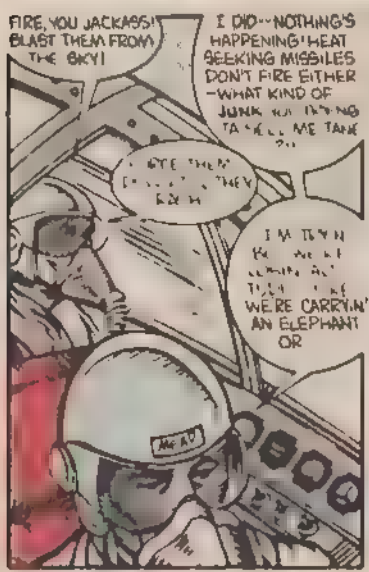
GOTTA THINK QUICK JIMMY BOY
FOOOSH
OVER THE SIDE LADY!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, TOO!
TAKE THE SPEED BOATS AND RETRIEVE THEM! I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY MORE MISTAKES.
THOSE GOONS GUNFIRE SCRATCHED ONE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION WE CAN'T EXACTLY SWIM THIRTY MILES BACK TO THE MAINLAND - AND IT ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY HIDING FROM TANE FOREVER I'M OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS
I'M SURE I SPOTTED A HANGER ON THE FARSIDE OF THE ISLAND PROVIDED WE CAN GET TO IT CAN YOU PILOT A PLANE?
NO BUT SUPERMAN ISN'T THE ONLY GUY I KNOW WHO CAN FLY! C'MON
AND
SORRY, COLONEL, YOU'VE JUST BEEN DRAFTED
HUH?!
HOW COULD YOU IDIOTS LET THEM STEAL MY PLANE?! USE THAT GRENADE LAUNCHER BLOW OUT THE FUEL TANK
BUT SIR - THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE!
GENERAL GALLUS WOULD NEVER GIVE UP SO READILY - COME, I WILL SHOW YOU HOW A TRUE WARLORD FINISHES A JOB!
KRAK
A

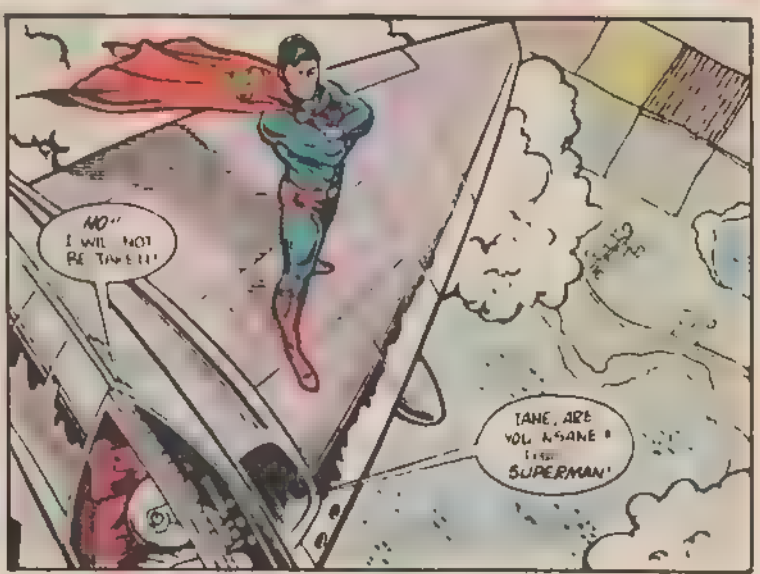
NIMA - SEE TO IT THAT THE COLONEL STAYS ON A FLIGHT PATH FOR METROPOLIS AIRPORT. I WANT A MILITARY ESCORT BACK THAT I WANT NOBODY WITH

IF I CAN GET THIS BIRD TO PARLIAMENT A SIGNAL TO THE FREEDOM GATE... IT WILL BE THE DEATH KNELL OF THE REGIME AT THE SAME TIME AS MY SON... FREEDOM AS MY SIGNAL WATCH
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS PRAY THE BIG GUN HAS HIS EARS ON

WHOA-- JETFIGHTER ONE O'CLOCK AND CLOSING FAST WE'VE BEEN SOLD OUT - HE MUST BE ALTERED A TRACKING SIGNAL! PRAY TO THIS BABY OUT COLONEL - NOW!"

GALLUS.
PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT THE VOICE FROM HIS PA ON
HEY HE'S SNAPPING OUT OF IT THIS FANCY DICKIE MUST EMIT SOME KIND OF HYPNOTIC CUE. TOO LATE NOW THOUGH --THEY'RE EXTENDING THEIR GUN-TURRETS - WE'RE DEAD MEAT!


FIRE, YOU JACKASS! BLAST THEM FROM THE SKY!
I DID--NOTHING'S HAPPENING! HEAT SEEKING MISSILES DON'T FIRE EITHER -WHAT KIND OF JUNK YOU TRYING TA SELL ME TANE ?!!
BYE THEM [illegible] THEY [illegible]
I'M TRYIN TO [illegible] WE'RE CARRYIN' AN ELEPHANT OR
MEAD

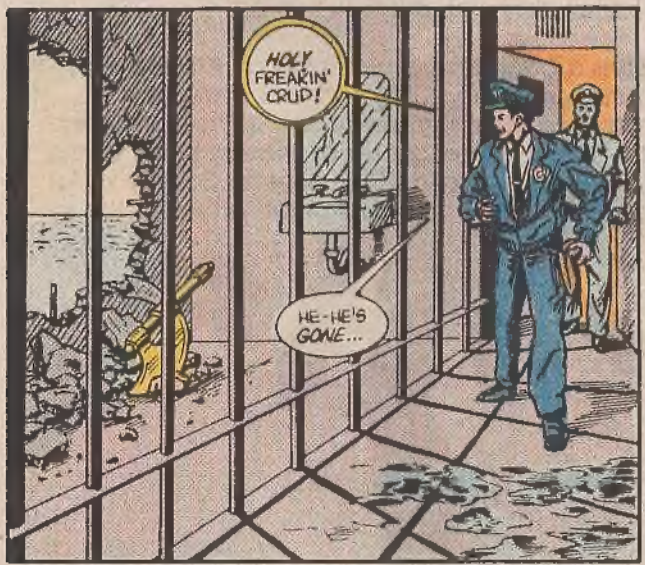

NO" I WILL NOT BE TAKEN!
TANE, ARE YOU INSANE ? I'm SUPERMAN!

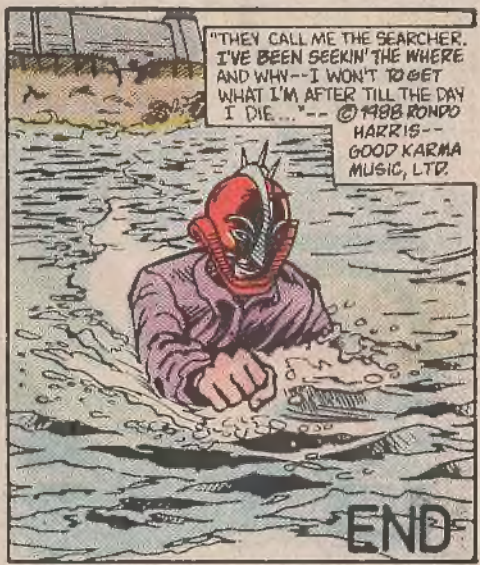
NOT EVEN ME WILL TAKE ME!
EJECT!!
NO, DON'T-- HE'S MELTED THE HATCH SHUT WITH HIS HEAT VISION--
OOOFFF!!
NO!!UHRRKK--

SO COLONEL, YOU WERE CONDUCTING YOUR OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE GALLUS CULT--WITH NO REGARD FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL SAFETY--AND WERE ABLE TO RESCUE THAT YOUNG COUPLE AND CONTACT SUPERMAN?
UH...YEAH ...IT WAS NOTHING REALLY.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? I PUT MY BUTT ON THE LINE AND COLONEL ROCKETHEAD STEALS MY THUNDER!
IT'S BEST THIS WAY JIMMY. THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER EMBARRASSMENT RIGHT NOW.

LOIS--I WANT SOME FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS FROM THE GALLUS CULT MEMBERS--PLAY UP THE GUN-RUNNING CONNECTION.
RIGHT AWAY, PERRY. NICE TAN, JIM. DID YOU ENJOY YOUR R AND R?
GIMME A BREAK!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT CLARK?! AFTER ALL THAT, I'M BACK TO COVERING HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL! SO MUCH FOR MY CREDIBILITY!
THAT'S POLITICS JIM. BE PROUD THOUGH--YOU'RE THE REAL HERO.

FEDERAL PRISON, STRYKER'S ISLAND..
SO THEN, EDDIE MURPHY BLOWS THIS CREEP AWAY AND I'M LAUGHIN' SO HARD THAT I--
NO! STAY OUT OF MY BODY --I AM THE MASTER! I WILL NOT SERVE--
AAAARRRGH
SHNNKK BANNT! BANNT!
HEY--PIPE DOWN IN THERE, TANE!
THIS LOON'S STILL TRYIN' THE SPOOK ACT!
WAITAMINNIT DAVE--THAT RACKET SOUNDS LIKE HE'S TRYIN' TA POUND HIS WAY OUT--LET'S PUT 'IM IN THE HOLE TILL HE CALMS... HEY THAT WAS LOUD!


HOLY FREAKIN' CRUD!
HE-HE'S GONE...


"THEY CALL ME THE SEARCHER. I'VE BEEN SEEKIN' THE WHERE AND WHY--I WON'T TO GET WHAT I'M AFTER TILL THE DAY I DIE..."-- ©1988 RONDO HARRIS--GOOD KARMA MUSIC, LTD.
END

Whats a DC Bonus Book?

You're holding a DC Bonus Book.

Every month until further notice, we'll be adding an extra 16 pages to an ongoing DC title and filling them with the work of promising newcomers.

You get a free story. We get a chance to work with people we feel will become important creators in a few years.

So everybody wins.

Enjoy.

BONUS BIOS

Writer **Joe Calchi** was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. "The only place Italians are allowed to be born, besides Italy," says Joe. He attended the High School of Art and Design, New York City Community College and South Florida Art Institute. Joe currently makes his living as an Illustrator and a Graphic Designer where he lives in Palm Beach, Florida. He lists his many influences as his family, Degas, Mel Blanc, John Buscema, Bram Stoker, Leonardo, Neal Adams, Sandy Becker, the E.C. Bullpen, Don McLean, Muddy Waters, Rod Serling, Frank Frazetta, Ian Fleming, Tennessee Tuxedo, Andrew Loomis and "a multitude so numerous to mention that it would effect the equilibrium of the entire known universe."

Penciller **Britt Wisenbaker** says he was "fortunate enough to be born into a family that loves to travel," and he has visited or lived in Switzerland, Hawaii, Florida, Massachusettes, and most of the Southwestern United States by the time he entered Junior High School. When Britt was attending Elementary School in Honolulu, a next door neighbor gave his brother and him a huge box containing hundreds of comic books. Britt says he was "hooked by the power of Jack Kirby's work, the inventiveness of Steranko and the rendering prowess of Neal Adams." Britt has graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.A. in fine art.

Inker **James Scott** is a Canadian citizen, born and "removed from Scotland many moons ago." Jim earns his living as a computer operator for a local sign company "in the real world." Jim calls himself a "late bloomer" as far as coming to the comic book field is concerned. He attended the Alberta College of Art for three years and learned a "whole lot about art stuff."

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Dear Action Aces:

ACTION #595 was a pleasant surprise! I've been asking for the Martian Manhunter for months, and you finally came through!

The Silver Banshee was a visually impressive villainess, although not someone I'd care to see as a recurring foe. You'll have to bring her back at least once, however, to explain who she is.

The reactions to Superman's "death" were all well handled, especially Luthor's. He is really obsessed with getting Supes himself, as this issue plainly made clear. Batman was surprisingly human for a change, as when he comforted Black Canary. He actually seemed to care, which is more than I can say for the way he's handled in the JL's own book.

Most importantly, J'onn was well handled himself. His mental powers, which aren't always touched upon, were used to good effect here. I've always wondered if J'onn assumed Superman's form, would he gain all of the Man of Steel's powers? Since Superman isn't vulnerable to fire, would J'ohn lose this weakness and gain Supes' vulnerability to Kryptonite? Byrne still draws the best Martian Manhunter around, and I hope to see more of J'onn in these pages. (Feel free to plug the upcoming Martian Manhunter mini-series because I really want to hear more about it.)

My only gripe with the issue is the last page. Lana has obviously joined the Manhunters from DC's upcoming MILLENNIUM series. Is she brainwashed? Has a Manhunter taken her place? Or are you going to reveal that she, along with all the other DC supporting characters who are Manhunters, never existed and were Manhunters all along? I think that's a terrible waste of potential, and I'm sick of all this history changing garbage! If you people say Lana never existed, I'll never forgive you!

Danny DeAngelo
South Boston, MA

Danny, Danny, Danny, Danny. Would we do that to you? By now you've read ACTION #696 and have learned the **real** *backstory of Lana and the people of Smallville. Lana is real, and Lana is still here.*

Oddly enough, yes, when the Martian Manhunter uses his shape-changing abilities to emulate a super-hero, he does gain that hero's powers and weaknesses. At least, that's the story **this** *week. As you yourself noted, J.M. DeMatteis and Mark Badger are busy redefining J'onn J'onzz in the pages of his own mini-series even as we speak, and we're told—as trite as it may sound—that the Martian Manhunter's life will never again be the same! Check back with us on this one.*

Dear Editor:

In this reader's estimation, the latest issue of ACTION COMICS, #695, does a grave injustice to the guest-star! Not displaying Martian Manhunter's name or showing his true form on the cover and the "death of Superman" theme naturally led readers to suspect Deadman or the Spectre to be the guest-star. Who would suspect ghostly maneuvers to be the forte of a martian?

You probably say, "why all the fuss?" My outrage stems from the fact that J'onn J'onzz is one of the most underrated heroes in the DC Universe, and his prominent exposure here could have done miracles for his PR. When you switched to the scene at JLI HQ and displayed Black Canary, Batman, and J'onn, I was elated to see J'onn's awesome presence at the hands of John Byrne. John can craft any hero superiorly, but some of them he does magnificently, and J'onn happens to be one of this latter group! As such, a Byrne-rendered J'onn on the cover instead of the ghost of Superman would have been a blessing to the Martian Manhunter, who is, after all, the first super-hero of the Silver Age! I know that he is to get his own mini-series. I only wish that Byrne were doing the art for it!

As for the story, I have to give credit to John for coming up with a new twist to the tired plot of Superman being killed. This story and the ABC-TV Super Powers episode on the same theme are, in my opinion, the two best recent works on the subject. The Silver Banshee is also an exceptionally good new villain. Visually striking and deadly, this lady has a lot of potential. I am sure that she is far from gone, as there is just too much potential in this character as well as, I am sure, a fascinating origin. I mean, is she dead or alive? I think that John has only touched the surface of her powers and limits.

And then there is the book she is after, and the fact that she knows about Superman and today's world. This lady sure is a mystery, and one I can hardly wait for John to unravel!

While I do feel that the story was unfair to J'onn for the reasons stated above, I have to admit that John kept me guessing and entertained until all was explained—and J'onn did receive the proper esteem after the revelation. I don't think that John purposefully thought or felt that he was slighting J'onzz, as this story was meant to mislead us as to who the guest was, but J'onn could have used the extra publicity.

The story did thoroughly entertain me, so please take my gripe in the proper perspective—as loyalty to a hero who has always been referred to as in the shadow of the Man of Steel. I hope to see both J'onn J'onzz and the Silver Banshee in these pages again real soon!

What more can I say about the art? Byrne and Williams make a wonderful team, and, as I have stated, J'onn is at his best in their hands, as is just about everybody else! Thanks for listening.

Kent A. Phenis
1321 North Meridian Street
Apartment 816
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Action Aces:

Well, once again we are given a quality effort. At first, when I saw the cover of ACTION #695, I thought to myself, "Oh, no, not a ghost of Superman story!" Thankfully, we were spared that indignity. It's really strange that J'onn J'onzz was this issue's guest star. Before reading this story, I had been over at my brother's apartment, and I noticed that he had a Super Powers figure of J'onn J'onzz. It was then that I thought to myself what a great co-star he would make. Life is just stranger than fiction, huh? Okay, okay, enough prattling.

I had to read the explanation of the whole death bit several times before it actually made sense to me. (I also had to backtrack numerous pages to grab a hold of this concept!) I guess it makes some sense to me. Actually, I understand it perfectly—I just didn't care for it particularly. I've never seen this type of situation anywhere before and maybe for good reason—it was a slightly hokey premise. But, heck, at least it was original!

I know you're probably asking yourselves, "Why did this jerk say this was once again a quality effort and then proceed to dice the storyline to pieces?!" Reasoning of aforementioned jerk: great characterization (Luthor's temper tantrum), great guest stars (Batman, Black Canary, Martian Manhunter), and definitely last, but not least ... John Byrne's great artwork!!! A quality effort.

Kip Talbott
PO Box 206
Dayton, VA 22821

Dear Sirs:

ACTION #595 was a good, self-contained issue. I enjoy reading a simple, fun story without having to read seven other issues to understand it. I myself am a sucker for those "and ???" team-ups ever since BRAVE AND BOLD.

But the issue was not perfect. (I have encountered nothing that is, though, so don't feel bad.) The full-page art on pages 10 and 15 was spectacular, although they seemed to emphasize that there was little story to go around. (And does page 10 remind anyone of the cover of SUPERMAN #7?) In fact, the issue averaged only slightly over four panels per page, which seems too low.

And I wonder ... why is Batman's costume totally black? Anywhere else it is at least partially dark blue, which makes more sense to me because then you can show depth and shadow. In this issue, he seems too two-dimensional—flat and lifeless.

On a similar note, it was great not seeing Luthor in a black suit for once.

Is this the end of the Silver Banshee? I hope not. I also hope that we haven't seen the end of Bloodsport, the Host, and Rampage. Why do Mr. Byrne's villains tend to explode?

And since when can the Martian Manhunter become intangible? Artistic license?

Well, here's my list of heroes I'd like to see for future guest appearances with Superman: Zatanna, Madame Xanadu, Blue Devil, Captain Atom, Infinity, Inc., Black Canary, Green Arrow, Aqueman, Robin (sans Batman), Power Girl, Elongated Man, Plastic Man, Metamorpho, even Blue Beetle. Whew! Now that should keep you busy.

Ali Kokmen
no address

Actually, Byrne's black-and-gray interpretation of Batman hearkens back to the way the Gotham Guardian looked during the first few years of his existence. True, it's a little different than he's being portrayed in other DC titles, but that's *artistic license.*

J'onn has been turning intangible ever since he first appeared over thirty years ago. Trust me. This guy has more super-powers than anyone this side of Krypton.

Remember when we used to talk about Superman in this column?

Dear Mike:

ACTION #595 was most enjoyable! The story was reminiscent of some of the Superman death stories DC put out in the late '60s. At any rate, "The Ghost of Superman" was fun to read!

The Silver Banshee is definitely one of the most visually striking characters I've seen. If not for the skeletal face, she'd have definite "bombshell potential."

The JLI guest cameo was nice. Batman's comment on Superman's "death" had an interesting slant to it. Lois and Luthor's reactions were also quite revealing.

At first, I thought two additional full-page panels (pages 10 and 15) were a waste of space. Looking back, one page represented Superman's death and one his "rising." I guess those two events warrant a page each.

Jeff Mitchell
1794 W. Minnehaha
St. Paul, MN 55104

Thanks for writing, Jeff—and all of you who took the time to comment on the debut of Superman's newest foe. The general concensus seems to have voted for Silver Banshee's return ... so keep your eyes peeled—and your ears closed—for her next appearance. (Oh, all right, it'll be in SUPERMAN #17, okay? Man alive, not too impatient are we?!)

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #17—we just told you who's coming back in this one, and let's just add that you might be a tad surprised by this chick's origin! That's in 14 days, brought to you by John Byrne and Keith Williams.

NEXT MONTH: ACTION COMICS #600!!!! This is it! Sound the trumpets! Roll out the red carpet! Secure the mizzenmast! Celebrating FIFTY YEARS of Superman stories—this is the one they'll all be talking about! Not only does Superman finally get together with Wonder Woman! Not only does Darkseid rear his ugly head! Not only does George Perez join John Byrne by inking the main feature in this issue ... but we've lined up Superman artists past, present and probably future to participate in this most momentous of occasions! You'll be able to see the work of Curt Swan, Karl Kesel, Jerry Ordway, Walt Simonson, Kurt Schaffenberger, Mike Zeck, Murphy Anderson, Mike Mignola, Steve Rude, John Beatty, Art Adams, Kevin Maguire and—as they say—many more! WE ARE NOT KIDDING!!! This is big stuff! Fifty Years is a long time!!! We're talkin' all new!! It's the least we could do for the granddaddy of all super heroes!! Did we mention that it's going to be an 80 Page Giant? We didn't? It's going to be an 80 Page Giant!!! Just look for the large Golden Superman Statue on the cover and tell 'em DC sent you! We couldn't celebrate Superman's golden anniversary without you!! That's thirty days from now—the most significant event of Superman's year—all in ACTION COMICS #600!!! Whew!

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